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LOREN MILLER

VIRGINIA TEACHERS IN REVOLT

E. FREDERIC MORROW

MARCH WIND

A Story About Death

EDNA QUINN

CHICAGO'S R. A. COLE

(He bosses funerals, supports N.A.A.C.P.—See page 5)

FREE NEGROES IN OLD TEXAS

J. H. HARMON, JR.

CHALLENGE TO NEGRO YOUTH

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Published by

The Robert S. Abbott Publishing Co.

Incorporated

3435 Indiana Avenue :: Chicago, Illinois

305 v.45

THE CRISIS

Founded 1910
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

A Record of the Darker Races

ROY WILKINS, Editor
ADVISORY BOARD
J. E. Spingarn *Dr. Louis T. Wright* *James Weldon Johnson* *Lewis Gannett* *Walter White*

Volume 45, No. 1 *Whole No. 325*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*
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THE COVER

The Metropolitan Funeral System of Chicago, Ill., is one of the most successful of the large funeral establishments owned and operated by colored people in the country. R. A. Cole is president of the system and for many years has been an ardent supporter of the work of the N.A.A.C.P. The records show that for the past ten years the employes of the Metropolitan Funeral System—50 in number—have been 100% members of the N.A.A.C.P. through the Chicago branch.

NEXT MONTH

With the February number THE CRISIS is beginning a series of articles on influential Negro newspapers. It will proceed, roughly, in alphabetical order and, of course, cannot hope to include all the Negro papers in the United States. The first article of the series will deal with the Baltimore *Afro-American*.

●

Arthur B. Spingarn will have his second annual piece containing thumb nail reviews of books by Negro authors during 1937 in the February CRISIS. The first appearance of these paragraph reviews in the February, 1937, number caused a deal of favorable comment.

●

There will be, also, an article entitled "Peace and the Masses" by Harold Preece.

●

Dr. Harry F. Ward, national chairman of the American League for Peace and Democracy, has done a short piece on the program of his organization and its concern with the topics of paramount interest to colored people.

●

There will be a review of the exciting novelette, "Night at Hogwallow;" and also a review of the new picture book of the South, "You Have Seen Their Faces," written and pictured jointly by Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke-White.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

J. H. Harmon, Jr., is secretary of the Houston, Texas, branch of the N.A.A.C.P.

●

Loren Miller is a contributing editor of the *New Masses*. He has done several pieces for THE CRISIS, the most notable of which was "Uncle Tom in Hollywood." He lives in Los Angeles.

●

Gustav A. Stumpf is director of WPA Adult Education work in New York City.

●

Charles H. Houston is special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P. He has had charge of the various legal cases in the fight against inequalities in public education.

●

Edna Quinn lives in Leavenworth, Kans.

●

E. Frederic Morrow is a recent addition to the national office staff of the N.A.A.C.P. His work is the coordination of the activities of the Association's branches and his first piece for THE CRISIS is a result of his visit with the Virginia State Teachers Association and the Virginia Conference of N.A.A.C.P. Branches.

Free Negroes in Old Texas

By J. H. Harmon, Jr.

THE term free persons of color was applied to those Negro inhabitants of the Republic of Texas, by joint resolution of the Congress of 1836, authorizing all free persons of color who were residing here on the date of the Declaration of Independence to remain permanently in the Republic.[5]

Written histories of Texas have recorded little of the activities of its free Negro citizens prior to the days of the Republic and it is not generally known that the Negro as a citizen actively participated in the achievement of Texas Independence.[6, 7]

The census of San Antonio recorded by Morfi in 1777, including the Presidio, Villa and the five missions in a total population of 2,000 persons, classified 151 as "de color quebrado" translated "broken color," meaning colored.[6] A Spanish census taken December 31, 1792 recorded 247 male mulattoes, 167 female mulattoes, 15 male Negroes and 19 female Negroes. Of 69 Negroes who gave their nativity during this census, some gave San Fernando or vicinity, Adaes on the Louisiana border, Saltillo, Guatemala, Guinea and the Canary Islands and Mexican cities, mostly in bordering provinces.[6] These people went by Spanish names and spoke the Spanish language and were probably classed as other than free Negroes. Because of the great mixture of Spanish, Indian and Negro blood, iron-clad classifications were impossible.[6]

Under the Spanish and Mexican rule, there was no well-defined color division. Many natives of the Mexican population included persons with a large percentage of Negro blood, but none who were technically called "free Negroes."[6]

Another group of persons with Negro blood who were virtually free, although legally slaves, were those resultants of black and white mixtures. At this time throughout the slave states it was a common practice for Negro women slaves to be bought and kept as the wives and concubines of their owners, and Texas was no exception to this rule. The children from these unions took the status of their mother. Many of the planters attempted to have their children's status changed to that of free persons of color. An outstanding example of this is found in the story of John F. Webber, founder of Webberville. Webber had a child by a neighbor's slave, bought her and made her his wife and acknowledged her before the world. Webber continued to live in Texas throughout the whole period of the Republic, but because of social pressure he was finally forced to sell out and move to Mexico in 1851.[6]

Believe it or not, there was a time when Negroes and whites intermarried and lived peacefully in Texas. Negroes performed valuable service in the Texas armies fighting for independence from Mexico—and served in the same regiments with whites!

The Negroes already considered were divided into two classes, Mexicans and slaves. The main body of free Negroes was divided into four principal classes: (1) those who purchased their freedom; (2) those manumitted by the master; (3) those who escaped; (4) and emigrant Negroes already free.[6]

Mixed Marriages

Felipe Eula and William Goyan exemplified the first group. Felipe was a black Louisiana creole, who had purchased the freedom of himself and family. He owned five or six lots in the town of Bexar and a fine piece of land near the town. He educated his children to write and speak Spanish and French. His sister married a Frenchman. It is said that they were fine, smart black people. William Goyan lived in Nacogdoches as early as 1821 and was married to a white woman, a native of Georgia. Commentators of that day stated that they lived happily together, they were quite wealthy, respectable and accepted in society. Mrs. Goyan's brothers came to visit her during the visit of the commentator and appeared well-satisfied with their colored brother-in-law, whom they had not seen before. Their parting was a happy one. Goyan gave much aid towards the attempt to establish a colony for free Negroes at Tamaulipas.[6]

Emanuel J. Hardin came to Texas in 1822 and settled in Brazoria county and acquired a considerable amount of property in the county. He married Tomas Morgan, a smart Negro woman, who had purchased her freedom and held in her name sizeable amounts of real and personal property.

Jean Baptiste Maturin, a quadroon, received a grant of land from the Mexican government dated Leona Vicario, October 20, 1823, conceding one sidio of land in Nacogdoches county.

David and Sophia Gowns came to Nacogdoches in 1827 with their six children. Sophia was a Negro woman, but her husband was a white man. Robert Thompson, a Negro of prudence and industry, came to Texas in 1831 and later purchased two hundred acres of good land and paid for it with $600 "par money."[6]

In 1832 James Richardson, at the age of 60, came to Texas from Philadelphia. He made his living serving travellers between Velasco and San Luis, serving oysters and affording entertainment.[6]

Many Landowners

It is recorded that at least three free Negroes were accepted by Stephen F. Austin as a member of his colony. Two of them definitely received title to their land. Louis Jones, a farmer from Mississippi and his wife Sarah and their two daughters and a dependent came to Texas in 1826 and were received as colonists. In 1829, Jones applied for a half a league of land on Fish Pond Creek to adjoin that of Jared E. Grice, on his east boundary. Jones is listed in the records of Austin's Colony as Levi B. Jones.[6] Greenbury Logan, a blacksmith from Missouri, came to Texas in 1831 and was granted a half league of land on Chocolate Creek in Brazoria county by Stephen F. Austin.

Free Negroes were members of other colonies of settlers also. Allen Dimery, a married man, applied for land on February 11, 1835 and according to the records of the Texas Land Office he was granted one league of land in Leon county by the Mexican State of Coahuila and Texas on April 20, 1835. Dimery later sold some of this land in Leon county to John Durst, one of the early settlers in Texas, and also a representative of Texas at Monclova, Mexico, when the state was a part of Coahuila. One of the Durst heirs states that his father paid Dimery for the land with three yoke of oxen and a homemade ox-wagon. This land still remains in the hands of the Durst heirs and is situated in Leon county just east of the Trinity river and north of the

All references at end of article.

old San Antonio road. Several of the decendants of John Durst, who are living, well remember the stories that their parents told them of this free Negro. This tract is known today as the "Dimery League." Dimery was one of those free Negroes who emigrated to Texas, as he applied to the Congress of the Republic through petition on the third day of December, 1840, to be allowed to remain permanently in the Republic in accordance with the law affecting free persons of color.[1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Single free Negro women were not uncommon in those days. Harriet Newell Sands emigrated from Michigan with a Mr. Manton and remained in his employment and that of his son, Edward, during which time she gave birth to two mulatto girls and a black boy.[6] Zelia Husk, a single Negro women emigrated from Richmond county, Georgia and in 1838 was living in Houston doing laundry work.[6] Dinah Lennard emigrated to Texas in 1835 and worked for Colonel James Morgan a year. Nothing was known of her life before 1835, except that she lived in Houston.[6]

The Colonization Movement

Various estimates of the number of free Negroes in Texas around 1835 run from 150 to 397. As there was no census at that time it is impossible to secure any accurate figures about them. The free Negro never became an important factor in the population for several reasons, although there were attempts made to colonize them in Texas and Mexico by Anglo-Americans, Mexicans and Negroes. Benjamin Lundy, the famous abolitionist, was outstanding among these who attempted to organize a free Negro colony. At first he wanted to organize a colony in Texas proper, but later changed his location to Tamaulipas, Mexico, where he was granted some land for that purpose. His efforts never materialized, although they were given considerable publicity in that day, especially by the New York *Commercial Advertiser* and a Richmond paper. Both of these journals opposed the idea as being impractical.

There were others than Lundy who espoused such ideas. Nicholas Drouett, a mulatto and a retired Mexican officer, who for a time was associated with Lundy in his efforts to gain a land grant at Tamaulipas, sought to introduce five hundred Negro families from New Orleans, where he had many friends and relatives. His plan was also turned down as impractical. Conventions of free Negroes in the United States at this time did not favor colonization at all, and absolutely opposed the idea of going to Texas. If there was to be colonization they recommended northern Canada. Despite the fact that colonization never received much official sanction, Negroes migrated west just as others did at that time and for the same reasons. They were also urged to migrate by whites, who offered them protection and employment. They came west from all parts of the country, the East and the South, the slave and the free states and from all ranks of life, slaves and freemen.[4, 6]

Texas had its free Negro population increased due to the fact that it was a sanctuary for runaway slaves. It is said that if a slave made the Texas border he could be assured of his freedom, and it is also said that the contention of the Texans with the Mexicans over the ownership of slaves was among the first and main causes of the Texas Revolution. Negroes who made the Texas border often caused their masters who pursued them to be arrested and imprisoned. Texas, it seems, was a sought haven of the Negro until the Revolution.[4, 6]

Served in Revolutionary Army

The Negro made his contribution to the accomplishment of Texas' Independence in a conspicuous manner. A Negro was in the first volunteer company organized at Victoria under Capt. C. M. Collingsworth and a Negro was the first Texan to shed blood in the War for Independence. This Negro was Samuel McCullough, whom the Congress of the Republic recognized for his valor.[6]

Hendrick Arnold, a free person of color, along with Deaf Smith and J. W. Smith, acted as guides for Austin, Milam and Johnson in their attack on Bexar. Johnson, who assumed Milam's command upon his death, cited Arnold for performing important services. Henrick Arnold also participated in the battle of San Jacinto.[6] Greenbury Logan, a free Negro, a member of Capt. York's company, was the third man to fall from wounds and later correspondence between Logan and his representative, R. M. Forbes, proves this incident.[6]

Peter Allen, a free man of color from the state of Pennsylvania, was a musician and was shot down while in Capt. Wyatt's company under Col. J. W. Fannin as it retreated from Victoria March 19, 1835. William Goyan served as Houston's interpreter when he approached the Indians and in addition "served in the army of Texas during her dark hours of Revolution, shoulder to shoulder with the white men."[6]

Negroes contributed of their means to support the struggle of Texas for freedom and among these were Robert Thompson, William and Abner Ashworth.

Two slaves were manumitted soon after the close of the Texas Revolution because of the services they rendered during it and may be considered as free Negroes. They were Thomas F. McKinney's slave, Gary and Wylie Martin's slave, Peter. James Robinson, an indentured Negro servant, was in service at San Jacinto. James Richardson closed his place between San Luis and Valasco and joined the garrison at Valasco.[6]

Other Negroes performed services too numerous to mention, but these serve to indicate that they were pioneers and martyrs for the cause of the Republic.

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[1] Leon County Deed Records, Vol. A. Leon County, Centerville, Texas.
[2] History of Leon County—H. B. Fox and J. Y. Gates, Pub. Leon County News, Centerville, Texas, 1936, 34 pages.
[3] The Book of Knowledge, Vol. XXI. The Book of Texas—Holland Thompson, Ph.D. Grolier Society, 1929, Dallas, Texas
[4] Free Negro Heads of Families in U. S. in 1830—Carter G. Woodson, Ph.D. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.
[5] The Negro American—Rev. J. T. Gillard, S. S. J. Catholic Student Mission Crusade. U.S.A. 1935, 69 pages.
[6] Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXXIX, No. 4, April, 1936 (page 26), Pub. Quarterly by the Texas State Historical Ass'n. Quarterly. Austin, Texas.
[7] Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XL, No. 1. July, 1936 (page 26). Pub. Quarterly by the Texas State Historical Ass'n., Austin, Texas.
[8] Memorial No. 21 dated November 5, 1840. File Box No. 21, Letter No. D. Memorials and Petitions, Archives, Texas State Library, Austin, Texas.
[9] The Texas Negro Under Six Flags—I. B. Bryant, Jr. Houston College for Negroes, Houston, Texas.
[10] Records of General Land Office, State of Texas. Austin, Texas. Vol. 18, page 219.
[11] Consultant—Joe McDaniels, Leon County Abstract Co. Centerville, Texas.
[12] Consultant—J. H. Walker, Land Commissioner, General Land Office, Austin, Texas. (By Letter).
[13] Consultant—H. Durst, Jr., Appraiser for the Federal Land Bank, Crockett, Texas. Descendant of Major John Durst, pioneer American Settler. (By Letter).
[14] Consultant—B. L. Durst, 2813 Erie St., Houston, Texas. Descendant of Major John Durst, pioneer American Settler.
[15] Consultant—Harriet Smither, Archivist, Texas Library and Historical Commission, State Library, Austin, Texas. (By Letter).
[16] Consultant—Harold Schoen, Dept. of History, University of Texas—Austin, Texas. (By Letter).

NEXT MONTH

Since the World War, the Negro press has grown in power and influence. Where once it boasted of little influence and few material assets, it has grown now to a place where it sways public opinion. It employs a trained personnel and issues its product from plants containing the most modern printing machinery.

Beginning with the February CRISIS, and running throughout 1938, there will appear stories of the important papers that make up the Negro press.

Alphabetically at the head of the list stands the Baltimore *Afro-American*, whose story appears in the February CRISIS.

Hollywood's New Negro Films

By Loren Miller

LITTLE was written about it at the time but Los Angeles had a movie premiere early in 1937 that was more significant in its way than many of the highly publicized and extravagant Hollywood premieres of the year. The premiere was that of "Dark Manhattan," a rather crude gangster film built around a trite and shopworn plot and weighted down with more than its share of technical faults.

The significance of the film lies in the fact that it was produced expressly for theaters with a Negro clientele and that it served to start a cycle that promises to result in a regular flow of talkies featuring Negro casts and at least purporting to deal with Negro life. Since that time, four similar films, one of them starring Joe Louis and written about his life, have been produced and at least two companies are in the field with announcements that they will go into regular production.

"Dark Manhattan" was produced by George Randol and Ralph Cooper in cooperation with a white producer. Randol came to Hollywood to cast for "The Green Pastures" and tarried to produce some shorts for R.K.O. The R.K.O. shorts were very reminiscent of "The Green Pastures" and although twelve of them were promised only three were made. Randol then started his own concern with Cooper but they have split and Cooper is now one of the heads of another concern called Million Dollar Productions.

Million Dollar Productions' first offering was "Bargain With Bullets," another gangster, but much better from a technical standpoint than "Dark Manhattan." The film was well received, got a nice hand from Variety, the bible of the show business, and the company plunged into another film, "Life Goes On," which has just been completed.

Meanwhile Joe Louis came to Hollywood and another group, advised by Clarence Muse, secured him for a picture titled "Spirit of Youth." That picture has also been completed but has not been released. While these pictures were being conceived and filmed, Spencer Williams, another actor, interested other capital in the idea and as a result "Harlem on the Prairie" will soon be offered theaters. Randol is still active and has announced an ambitious list of titles none of which is in process of production.

Improved films featuring Negro actors for Negro audiences are coming from Hollywood, but the cameras need to be refocused, says this writer, to record Negro life in terms of everyday Negro problems

The Joe Louis film, its makers say, is not designed for an exclusive appeal to houses with Negro patronage. Their professed ideal is to make a talkie which will have a Negro cast and yet appeal to all theater-goers as "good entertainment." They are frank in saying that the production is experimental and that the future of the concern is bound up with the reception of the Louis film; they may modify their plans or they may abandon production altogether. Other producers are just as frankly out to build up a clientele of theaters with Negro patronage and they cite statistics to prove that there are enough Negro theater goers to support such ventures.

This infant industry has offered little thus far to Negro camera men, scenario writers and other employees necessary to produce films. Like other so-called independent producers, the makers of these films rent their equipment from the larger studios. All of them have been paying at least the minimum wage scales set by the Screen Actors Guild. The stories have required little creative ability because they are mere adaptations of well known themes; producers have played double and triple roles as writers, actors and directors.

This idea of producing films for the Negro theater audience is not new; Oscar Micheaux tried it years ago with the silents and it has been experimented with intermittently ever since both by him and others. The new crop of concerns is the first to secure backing with at least enough money to exploit the idea on a fairly wide commercial scale. Some of these companies are going to fail but there are indications that others are going to succeed to some degree.

Mediocre Melodramas

The two films thus far produced have been distinctly mediocre from an artistic standpoint. The plots are trite, the stories have been told a dozen times and the films have had their measure of success because the actors are Negroes. The actors have been competent without being brilliant, perhaps hampered by the limitations of the material. Certainly a stranger, unacquainted with American life, could have seen them without gaining any real insight into the complexities of Negro life in America. The films are, in truth, just old fashioned, pot boiler melodramas.

"The Spirit of Youth" is not yet available for pre-view but its sponsors claim that it has a dash of realism. It is significant that they have seen fit to include several lavish cafe and cabaret scenes of which they are very proud, a tip-off that the night club aspect of Negro life, so beloved in screen and stage tradition, will be stressed. "Life Goes On," the Million Dollar Production, stars Louise Beavers and re-tells the story of the mother and two sons, one good and the other bad. The good boy becomes a lawyer, the bad boy a gangster. You can guess the rest: the lawyer-son saves the gangster-boy from prison and the erstwhile racketeer marries the little-girl-from-the-old-home-town.

"Harlem on the Prairie" is a western with transplanted Harlem Negroes on the hunt for buried treasure. It is labeled comedy and is not quite complete; I don't want to hazard a guess as to its merit in its field but it can't be realistic. The same concern is at work on another comedy, "Jungle Justice," written by F. E. Miller, of "Shuffle Along" fame, and advertised as "novelty comedy drama."

Little Realism

Films of the kind already produced, and in production, offer little to cheer about; those who have been crying out for films that will depict Negro life realistically aren't going to be satisfied, and rightly so. Yet it is significant that every one of these film makers has recommended his products on the ground that Uncle Tom plays no part in them. Consciously, or unconsciously, these producers are making their films in response to widespread criticism of Hollywood's habit of casting the Negro actor as a clown, a fool or an underling. They are right in assuming that Negro movie fans want to see the Negro actor in better roles; they are wrong in assuming that the problem is solved by merely casting the Negro actor as the hero of a hackneyed gangster, success or love story. The Lafay-

ette Players of a generation ago tried that same formula when they produced dramas of the Dracula type with Negro actors. The acting was good and the actors competent, even excellent, but the Lafayette Players failed.

One of the reasons why the Lafayette Players flopped was because Negro theater-goers, at first intrigued, finally tired of seeing Negro actors enact roles in dramas that had no meaning in terms of their own lives. Similarly, the producers of this new flood of talkies cannot continue to cash in on the novelty of presenting Negro actors in roles which Negroes do not play in real life. Nor is this an argument that Negro actors should portray only Negro characters. There is no reason, except for the limitations of popular prejudice, why Negro actors should not portray Irishmen or Frenchmen as white American actors do. However it is obvious that the producers of these Negro talkies are not ready to tackle that larger problem; tacitly, they are committed to the proposition that Negro life should be depicted to Negro audiences by Negro actors and since that is their job they must be judged by their work in that field. They won't do that job well until they realize that criticism directed against Hollywood for its treatment of Negro actors is basically a criticism of Hollywood's distortion of Negro life. And gangster melodramas or goo-goo success stories, using Negro actors, distort reality just as surely as did "Imitation of Life."

New Focus Needed

What is required for the job is the simple honesty necessary to turn the camera around and focus it in such a manner that it will catch the phases of our lives deliberately neglected and distorted by Hollywood for cash and carry considerations. That is no easy task. The Negro's place on stage and screen has been fixed for so many years that the tradition sways the judgment of Negroes themselves and honest whites. The fear that propaganda may creep in and spoil the entertaiment value of the films also bulks large and, I fear, is militating against good intentions in selection of themes. The truth is that every time any Negro steps outside the black belt of his home town to buy a hot dog, select a school for his child, ride a train, look for a job or get married, divorced or buried he runs into problems arising out of his Jim Crow status in society. The conflicts that arise out of the Negro's necessary attempts to cope with these problems provide the richest mine of dramatic material available and the producer who foregoes dealing with such situations out of fear of making propaganda films is dooming himself to wasted efforts. He has to deal with them and he has to indicate in his pictures whether he believes existing racial relations are justifiable or unjustifiable. The dilemna impels him to take a "propagandistic" stand either one way or another.

There is no denying the fact that the producers of these new all Negro pictures are faced with grave problems. The ventures are purely commercial and available capital is still limited. All of the films thus far produced, with the possible exception of the Louis film, are of the cheap variety that Hollywood calls "quickies." There is the possibility that if the ventures prove successful in a financial way larger studios may step in and exploit the idea, a not unmixed blessing. There would be more money for the making of adequate films but those studios would bring with them an even larger burden of traditional treatment of Negro themes.

The producers also have the problem of distribution on their hands; seeking profits, they have to consider their market. They make out quite a case for the difficulties of showing certain kinds of film in southern states. I don't know whether or not a frank play like "Stevedore" could be shown in the South if made into a film. The probabilities are that it could not and commercial producers can be excused for not spending money on such a venture.

Nor are there adequate signposts to indicate what kind of films Negro fans want immediately. That Muse and his associates, at least, are alive to the importance of public sentiment in this matter is shown by his appeal to Negroes to write him explaining what kind of pictures they want. Such a poll won't prove anything unless the returns are interpreted intelligently. Ninety per cent of the fans want gangsters or love stories or success yarns; the important consideration is how this material is treated, how well it reflects life in the Negro community. A gangster film, for example, may be as melodramatic as "Bargain With Bullets" or as serious as "Dead End."

Public Likes Serious Films

However there is no reason why producers should be permitted to hide behind either popular taste or difficulties of distribution. It must be remembered that movie makers help dictate public taste as well as cater to it. The manner in which Negro audiences received such plays as "Fury" and "They Won't Forget" indicates that serious films are appreciated. Similar treatment of the same or of the thousand and one other important themes will obviously pay dividends especially since, if made for Negro audiences, they can afford to be even more straightforward. This straightforwardness in turn would compensate for less elaborate treatment that is a necessity in view of lack of funds.

This is not a plea for heavy-footed problem or propaganda films. All that can be asked is that the pictures tell the truth. Truth on the screen will pose its own problems and suggest answers and those answers will be the best possible "propaganda." The Negro theatergoer does very well to encourage an industry that will employ Negro actors; it is even more important for him to appraise such films and remind film makers that their products are going to play an important part in the social trends of the times. Movies, made either for the Negro or the general audience, educate as well as amuse.

Obviously, the Negro press must play an important part in evaluating films that are produced since the fan is going to rely on its judgment. The business of making films for the Negro audience is still in its infancy and now is the time to help train this problem child in the way it should grow. Nothing can retard a sound growth more than the habit of heaping indiscriminate praise on any effort, however shoddy, if that effort is covered with the mantle of "race pride."

It is too early to predict with finality what we can expect from our new movie makers or whether or not they have either the vision or the desire to focus their cameras in the proper manner. The start has been none too propitious. They are leaning too heavily on exploiting the thrill that comes to the average fan when he sees the Negro actor on the screen with his hat on his head instead of in his hand and far too little on the artistic merit of their productions. The pictures are showing gratifying technical improvement but announcements of future films include almost nothing to indicate that producers are ready or planning to accept the social responsibility that became theirs when they went into the business of making pictures. Crass commercialism is far too evident.

The final decision as to the future of these films rests with the Negro movie fan. It is imperative that he be on the alert. If he is ill-advised and content with cheap films just because they feature Negro actors that is what he will get. If he registers a desire for worthwhile films at the box office either the present group of producrs or another, attuned to his desires, will produce pictures that will fulfill the real function of any art: help him understand the world in which he lives and cope with the problems inherent in living in that world.

Harlem Tops New York WPA Classes

By Gustav A. Stumpf

In 34 centers in Harlem, 127 teachers are giving instruction in 45 subjects to more than 6,000 persons. These figures tell the story of the adult education work of the WPA in the famous upper end of Manhattan

PROPONENTS of the theory that the Negro race is apathetic to learning may gather convincing evidence to the contrary from a study of Harlem's enrollment in the field of adult education in the four years since the federal government began financing educational projects as a part of its emergency relief program. For here, in America's most thickly settled Negro section, what was begun frankly as an experiment has proved itself beyond all doubt to be successful. Negroes the country over may well take pride in the fact that during the program's short term in the summer of this year, Harlem's total class enrollment exceeded that of any other section of Greater New York.

What is even more significant is the fact that a goodly percentage of the 6,000 odd Harlemites now attending the various classes had received only a smattering of formal education prior to their enrollment. Many never had been to school at all, having grown to maturity during those years when little was planned and comparatively nothing was done for the betterment of their lot.

Frankly, the interest manifested in these free classes, which give instruction in vocational, cultural and home making subjects, has far exceeded the hopes of the most optimistic. When the adult program got under way in 1933 with funds furnished by the Civil Works Administration, three teachers were assigned to the Harlem area and classes were set up in four centers. Though no funds were provided for publicizing the program, the word got around, mainly by word of mouth, and slowly but steadily the classes began to grow. The program, being primarily an emergency move to relieve the problem of the white collar unemployment, had a hastily worked out curriculum which concentrated upon elementary English and allied subjects, and Harlem's first classes were in English for beginners. Later, as the program was expanded under the Works Progress Administration, additional subjects were made available, more teachers were provided, and more centers were added. Today there are 34 centers in Harlem, with 127 teachers giving instruction in about 45 subjects that range from biology and foreign languages to tailoring and stenography.

Registration Peak 6,139

The peak registration figure of 6,139 students as of November 30 has been reached, however, largely because of the popularity of commercial subjects, along with the program's intensive drive to eradicate New York City's inordinately high illiteracy quotient. In the first instance, the concentration toward "white collar" courses is greatly to be encouraged among the Negro people. Among the whites there probably is a surplus of people who can keep books, operate typewriters, adding machines and other office equipment, run shops and so on, but among Negroes the opposite is true. There are not half enough Negroes in Harlem who are qualified to perform the clerical duties of the race's industrial and commercial life. There is undoubtedly a field of employment here that has hardly been scratched.

The campaign for literacy has made Harlem one of its focal points, and with encouraging results. During the summer term of 1937, enrollment in classes of this division reached 1,687, being second only to that of the commercial division. At this time, with the fall-winter term well into its stride, there are more than twice this number enrolled, with additional students joining the classes every day. These students range in age from seventeen years, the minimum enrollment age, to eighty and over. There are young fellows who somehow missed public schooling, and there are white-haired grandparents who were born into slavery; in between there are people of all ages and occupations. Not all, of course, confine their studies to elementary English. Many take English courses corresponding to those in high schools and colleges.

The classes, and particularly those in the elementary education division, abound with human interest. In one class, three generations of one family are represented: the grandfather, who as a small boy saw some of the fighting at Manassas; the father, who is superintendent of an apartment building, and the daughter, nineteen. At another center, a husband and wife attend classes on alternate days, one staying at home to look after their children. There are many more such stories, each bearing proof that educational opportunities are readily recognized by the Negro people.

The lowest registration in the adult education program in Harlem is in the homemaking and health education divisions. Both are integral units in the program, and once we can properly emphasize the importance of these subjects in promoting cheer and comfort and good health, it is believed that registration in these divisions will take a sharp rise. The greatest handicap in recruiting and holding students in these

Registration at Adult Education Headquarters of the New York WPA

divisions is the lack of proper equipment, combined with the inability of most wives and mothers to buy the materials necessary to participation in the classes. Partially offsetting this obstacle, however, is the splendid spirit of cooperation on the part of the teachers. Though instructors receive only the subsistence wage set by the Works Progress Administration, many have purchased classroom materials out of their own limited funds to help carry on the classes. At one of the centers, a cooking class instructor prepares and serves luncheons to other teachers and students, making in this way enough money to buy materials for classroom use.

Some Jobs Secured

Although it is not officially a purpose of the adult education project to get jobs for students, a sizable number have been placed in domestic and sales employment, mainly through the cooperation of the New York Urban League, which also provides rooms for class use.

Much is also to be said on behalf of the various organizations, churches, libraries, etc., that have turned over space in their buildings for the setting up of classes. The two largest centers are located at St. Mark's M.E. church, 49 Edgecombe avenue, and the Abyssinian Baptist church, 132 West 138th street, and a high percentage of the enrollment in these centers is due to the unflagging aid extended by the clergymen and laity of these institutions. Organizational assistance has also proved inestimable in promoting the success of the program's Forum division, which has presented the foremost authors, lecturers and professional men of the Negro world to steadily increasing audiences. The first Harlem forum was set up only two years ago, but since that time others have been put in operation to meet the popular demand. At the present time there are seven forums, presenting speakers weekly and fortnightly with attendance ranging from 40 to 125 persons. Like the rest of the adult education program, the forums are free to all, and topics of discussion stress these of particular interest to the Negro people. Among the speakers that have been presented by the forum division are George Schuyler, columnist of the Pittsburgh *Courier* and internationally famous as an author and journalist; Dr. Max Yergan, the first Negro to hold a faculty position at the City College of New York; Dr. John West, head of the Harlem Health Center, Dr. William R. R. Granger, noted physician; Lewis Burnham of the National Negro Congress; Claude McKay, author and poet, and George Wibecan, civic leader.

Youth Work

Recognizing that thousands of young people self-organized in unaffiliated clubs (meeting in homes, basements and churches etc.) are not aware of the many cultural opportunities offered and are not being attracted by the Adult Education Program, the Youth Division of our project has sent some ten youth workers to provide informal educational leadership to some 34 different Harlem Youth Groups. With the avowed purpose of encouraging youth to think through and take the necessary action in solving its own as well as community problems, these workers have become "the educational catalytic agents" in the drab routine lives of young people and their social groups in Harlem. Already tangible results of such leadership are evident. We hear of the organization of a Youth Opportunity Club in the basement of the New York Urban League, the organization of church youth councils at St. James, Metropolitan Baptist and St. Philips churches; the setting up of an office of a federation of some 50 clubs at 2132 Seventh avenue, run for and by young people themselves to offer club activity service and act as a general club information clearing house. Youth participation in community life becomes a reality in the numerous health, educational and vocational campaigns undertaken. These include an anti-syphilis, bettering housing, "Get Club Rooms For Youth Groups," vocational opportunities and other campaigns. Study circles on consumers cooperation, Negro History, inter-racial problems, and health and social hygiene—all arising out of the needs and interest of these groups—are helping prepare young people for intelligent and active participation in the community life of Harlem. In all only 733 young people are reached by this service, a small fraction of the youth in Harlem. Much remains to be done.

All in all, the administrative staff of the Adult Education program feels that its efforts in Harlem have proved worthwhile. There is much that can yet be done, and this we still hope to do. From time to time we hope to provide additional courses of instruction, and to set up new centers as they are needed. Our aim in Harlem, as in the remainder of New York City, is to place knowledge within the reach of all who desire it.

Aftermath

By Inge Hardison

And each passed the other,
But neither spoke a word—
And only sounds of footfalls, fading—
Could be heard.

Notice of Nominations

The Committee on Nominations nominates the following persons as National Officers and for membership on the Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P.:

President: **Mr. J. E. Spingarn, New York**

Chairman of the Board: **Dr. Louis T. Wright, New York**

Treasurer: **Miss Mary White Ovington, New York**

Vice Presidents:

Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, Washington
Mr. Godfrey L. Cabot, Boston, Mass.
Hon. Arthur Capper, Topeka, Kansas
Mr. Clarence Darrow, Chicago
Bishop John A. Gregg, Kansas City, Kansas
The Reverend John Haynes Holmes, New York
Hon. Manley O. Hudson, Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. James Weldon Johnson, Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. A. Clayton Powell, New York
Mr. Arthur B. Springarn, New York
Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard, New York

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Terms Expiring December 31, 1940)

Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, New York
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Dr. E. W. Taggart, Birmingham, Alabama ***(Term expires December 31, 1938)***
Hon. Charles E. Toney, New York
William Allen White, Emporia, Kansas
Frances Williams, New York
Dr. Louis T. Wright, New York

These nominations will be voted on at the annual business meeting of the association to be held Monday, January 3, 1938.

Committee on Nominations:

Lillian A. Alexander
Irwin T. Dorch
James Weldon Johnson
William T. McKnight
Arthur B. Spingern
Forrester B. Washington
Louis T. Wright

Official Notice of Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be held on Monday, January 3, 1938, at 2 p.m. at the offices of the association, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

At this meeting will be submitted reports of officers. Nominations for membership on the board of directors will be voted upon.

Can the States Stop Lynching?

IN February, 1937, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People published a pamphlet "Can the States Stop Lynching?" The pamphlet gave a digest of lynchings for 1935 and 1936 and showed the failure of the states to take action to apprehend or punish the members of lynching mobs. This supplement brings that pamphlet up-to-date. It is issued for two reasons: first, the opponents of federal anti-lynching legislation continue to advance the argument that the lynching problem should be handled by the states; and second, lynchings to date in 1937 show conclusively that the states are either unwilling or unable to curb mobs, or to punish officials who refuse to use their best efforts to protect their prisoners from mobs, or to apprehend and punish the mob members after a lynching occurs.

On April 15, 1937, the House of Representatives passed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, H. R. 1507, by a vote of 277 to 119. On August 12, 1937, the senate by a two-thirds vote, made the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan bill the special order of the senate at the next session of the Congress immediately after a farm bill has been disposed of.

Seventy-four members of the senate have pledged to support the bill.

Debate on the anti-lynching bill began in the Senate, November 16 and was stopped temporarily, November 22, when a farm bill was reported out of committee. When the farm bill is disposed of the anti-lynching bill will be taken up again and may be acted upon by the time this article appears

What the Senators Said

Opponents of federal anti-lynching legislation continue to advance the argument that lynching should be handled by the states, that the states can and will stop lynching.

During the debate in the United States at the last session of Congress, the following statement was made:

"Mr. President. I propound this inquiry to my friend the Senator from New York, and to other proponents of this measure: Have the people of the South endeavored to prevent this crime from occuring within their borders? Have they indicated their desire that human blood shall never be spilled in that violent and illegal manner by the improvement in public sentiment, the enforcement of the law, and the amelioration of the circumstances out of which the passions which result in lynchings arise? If they have, are their efforts to be rewarded by appreciation from their fellow citizens, or are their efforts to be stigmatized by such humiliating coercion as is attempted by the proposed legislation?"

—Senator Claude Pepper, Florida.
Congressional Record, August 11, 1937.

"Questions as to his stand on the anti-lynching bill brought a reminder from the Senator (Senator Pepper) that he was one of its opponents at the last session and a promise that 'I will do everything in my power against it.'"

—Pensacola, Fla., *Daily News*, November 2, 1937.

Note: Less than a month before this statement was made a double-lynching was staged in Senator Pepper's home town, Tallahassee, two blocks from the State capitol. Total lynchings for Florida this year to date are three. No serious effort has been made by local authorities of the state to punish the lynchers.

"We have all tried to bring lynchings down to the lowest possible number, and if we let the states take care of handling it, the number of lynchings will gradually diminish."

—Senator Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee.
Congressional Record, August 12, 1937.

Note: Six days after this statement was made and after the bill had been shelved, a mob shouting "to hell with the law" lynched a young Negro near Brighton, Tennessee, twenty-five miles from Senator McKellar's home town of Memphis. Elementary precautions were not taken and the sheriff offered no resistance to the mob.

What the States Did

February 2: Abbeville, Alabama: (New York *Post*, February 2.) *Wesley Johnson* twenty-two-year-old Negro, was taken from the Henry County jail and lynched by a mob of 100 men. He was charged with attempted assault. He was taken to the scene of the alleged attempted assault and riddled with bullets. Attorney General A. A. Carmichael later said he could prove conclusively that Johnson was innocent of the crime and that the sheriff knew he was innocent but arrested Johnson to appease the populace.

State Action: The grand jury investigating the lynching reported "there was no ground for action." Impeachment proceedings against the sheriff were instituted. The attorney general in prosecuting the impeachment said: "If we don't enforce the constitutional clause on lynching, Congress will pass an anti-lynching bill." The sheriff was acquitted in the impeachment proceedings. The Birmingham, Ala., *News* stated: "It is just such cases that tend to justify a federal law against lynching."

No arrests — no indictments — no convictions

April 13: Duck Hill, Mississippi: (New York *Times*, April 14.) *Roosevelt Townes* and *"Boot Jack" MacDaniels*, accused of the murder of George S. Windham were lynched by a mob. Sheriff Wright and two deputies were proceeding with the two prisoners from the court house when twelve men emerged from the crowd and seized the prisoners. The men were carried to the scene of the lynching where three or four hundred men, women and children had gathered. They were chained to trees and holes burned in their flesh with blow torches before being shot and burned to death.

State Action: The sheriff knew the mob was waiting. The officers offered no resistance—did not even draw their guns. The men were seized in broad daylight—yet no one, not even the sheriff, could identify any of the members of the mob. The lynching took place ten miles from the town but the sheriff made no effort to follow or to prevent the lynching. The governor, the district attorney and the sheriff promised action. The Indianola, Miss., *Sunflower Tocsin* stated: "Nothing will ever come of any investigation the governor or anybody else will make and not one member of the mob will ever be arrested." The sheriff was not removed or prosecuted. The following reply was received by the

N.A.A.C.P. in answer to an inquiry made September 13: "Governor White directs me to advise you that he has not yet received an official report from the officials of Duck Hill concerning the affair of last April."

No arrests—no indictments—no convictions.

July 20: Tallahassee, Florida: (New York *Post*, July 20.) *Richard Hawkins* and *Ernest Ponder*, two young Negroes charged with stabbing a policeman, were taken from a jail two blocks from the Florida capitol and lynched three miles from the state capitol about 100 feet from and in easy sight of the heavily traveled Tallahassee-Jacksonville highway.

State Action: No action to prevent lynching. Governor Fred P. Cone in commenting on the lynching admitted "it looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody." On August 27, the St. Petersburg *Times* commenting on the "investigation" of this lynching stated: "An investigation into the lynching of two Negroes in Tallahassee got nowhere, just as everyone, familiar with Florida justice, expected."
No investigation of failure of sheriff to protect victims or prevent lynching.

No arrests—no indictments—no convictions.

August 17: Covington, Tenn.: (New York *World Telegram*, August 17.) *Albert Gooden*, charged with murder, was taken from Sheriff Vaughan near Covington, Tenn., and hanged to a trestle and his body riddled with bullets. On July 19, Sheriff Vaughan outraced a mob which had formed to lynch Albert Gooden and rushed him to Memphis. However, Vaughan on August 13 went to get Gooden without any officers or protection and had started back unescorted to Marion with his prisoner, when his prisoner was taken from him.

State Action: Sheriff Vaughan, well aware of the feeling in the community, returned the prisoner with absolutely no protection except himself and he immediately delivered his prisoner to the mob. He said he gave chase to the car in which the victim was placed but lost it. He said he recognized none of the men and could not even make out the license number of the car which carried the victim away. The governor offered a reward for the arrest of the lynchers. On August 18 the grand jury recessed with a statement "We have nothing to report." On October 21 the grand jury reported "with sincere regret its inability to establish the identity of the six members of the mob."

No arrests—no indictments—no convictions.

LYNCHINGS BY STATES
1937

Alabama	1
Florida	3
Georgia	1
Mississippi	2
Tennessee	1
Total	8

September 3: Mount Vernon, Ga.: (New York *Herald Tribune*, September 3.) *Will Kirby* was shot and killed when he resisted efforts of a mob to search his house for another Negro suspected of assaulting a white woman.

State Action: None. *No arrests—no indictments—no convictions.*

October 4: Crestview, Florida: (New York *Times*, October 5.) *J. C. Evans*, charged with robbery and a "crime against nature" involving a 12-year-old boy and with robbing a filling station, was seized by a mob and his body riddled with buckshot and pistol bullets.

State Action: Sheriff Allen with only one deputy was returning Evans near midnight to a county where he says, "feeling was pretty high at one time." The Miami, Fla., *Herald* stated: "As usual Governor Cone is aroused and orders investigation and punishment, and again a jury hands down the usual verdict of the crime being committed by parties unknown, meaning the officials have no desire to know, at least publicly." In commenting on the three lynchings in Florida this year, the Miami *News* stated: "In each case, prisoners have been seized from what appeared to be careless and inadequately manned guards. The circumstances in more than one case even left room for hints of collusion between mobsters and officers of the law. In each case a 'thorough' investigation has been promised and in each case, up to the present, the investigators were quite unable to 'establish the identity' of the murders."

No arrests—no indictments—no convictions.

This total for 1937 is through December 15 only, and it does not include several cases which apparently are lynchings, but which the N.A.A.C.P. in its desire to present accurate statistics, is not including until after further investigation can be made.

Departure

By Leona Lyons

My South, they say—
The place where I belong.
Definitely am I a part of it;
Just as is the cotton,
The ore laden hills,
The black swamps
That ooze through bottom lands.
This is my heritage.
And heavy does it
Rest against my heart.

Oh, yes,
I have loved it—
As a bird, whose eyes
Have never beheld the day,
Loves night; As a hearty
Flower, nurtured in shadow
Flourishes and grips
Ever firmer the soil that holds it.

Then, one day
That love was crushed.
It was when I beheld a torch
Swinging eerily
Between earth and sky;
A torch that groaned and prayed—
A torch that writhed
Then quickly that love died . . . .

Resolutely,
I turned away. Even
As the embers glowed
And dimmed in the
Setting sun. Swiftly
My feet bore me along—
Yet not quickly enough
Could I cover the miles.

And though
I leave behind the
Whole of my heart,
Some freight, snaking
Through a near ravine,
Will bear me noisily
Away from My South—
That is no longer home.

Question

By Inge Hardison

Do brown leaves linger
When their time is done,
Rustling, dried-corn like,
On stiffened bough,
Like wrinkled crones—
In hopes that some green Spring
Will life revive?
Or do they stay
To comfort lonely trees,
With reminiscent sighs
Till buds return?

A Challenge to Negro College Youth

By Charles H. Houston

This review of the struggle for equality of opportunity in public education is a challenge to Negro young people and their elders to carry on what many persons regard as the most important fight facing Negro Americans

IN 1935 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through a grant made possible by the American Fund for Public Service, Inc., began a legal attack on the established policy of the southern states not to provide at state expense any graduate or professional training for Negro college graduates.

No southern or border state admitted Negroes to the state university. Only two states provided out-of-state scholarships. West Virginia paid the tuition of Negro students in out-of-state universities to take graduate or professional courses offered to white students in the state university. Missouri, which in 1929 had begun paying full tuition scholarships, had amended its law in 1935 so that it paid the Negro student only the difference between the tuition charged at the out-of-state university and the tuition charged at the University of Missouri. Where the tuition at the out-of-state university was less than the tuition at the University of Missouri, the Negro student received nothing for his exile from home.

The first case filed was against the University of Maryland. That was won, and a Negro boy, Donald Gaines Murray, was admitted to the school of law. Subsequently a second Negro was admitted to the school of law of the University of Maryland. But reactionary forces in Maryland have increased the out-of-state scholarship provisions for Maryland Negroes and are trying to close the doors of the University of Maryland again. That is the first challenge directed specifically to the Maryland college youth.

The second case was against the University of Tennessee. That was lost on a technicality: that although the Negro student, William B. Redmond, II, had applied for admission to and been rejected by the dean of the school of pharmacy, the president of the university, and the executive committee of the board of trustees successively, nevertheless the court held his petition for writ of mandamus prematurely filed because he had not first appealed from the decision of the executive committee to the full board of trustees of the university. Prior to the Redmond case the Tennessee law had always been that while the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee was not in session, the executive committee of the board exercised the power of the full board. But the court ruled differently in the Redmond case.

An appeal was noted, but in the meantime Tennessee passed a scholarship act. It was then decided that as funds were so low, instead of pressing the Redmond case to its final conclusion, the Association would conserve its funds for a fight in a state which made absolutely no provision for graduate or professional study for Negro youth, coming back to Tennessee later if a worthy appeal for aid should be made.

U. of Missouri Case

The third case was against the University of Missouri where Lloyd L. Gaines sought mandamus to compel his admission to the university school of law. The lower court ruled against him, and this decision was affirmed December 9, 1937, by the Missouri court of appeals. At this writing counsel are studying the record and opinion with the purpose of seeking review before the United States supreme court as to what constitutes equality of opportunity in graduate and professional education under the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment.

The Gaines case, however, was not a total loss. The court affirmed the theoretical proposition that Negro Missourians are entitled to equality of education with white Missourians. It declared void the Act of 1935 paying only the difference between the tuition at the out-of-state university and the tuition at the University of Missouri and held that the state had to pay full tuition at the out-of-state university under the Act of 1921. But it also declared that where the state paid the full tuition at the out-of-state university, such payment constituted educational opportunity equal to that afforded white students at the University of Missouri.

This is one ground for asking the United States supreme court to review the Gaines case. The supreme court of Missouri said that a tuition scholarship for Gaines was an equivalent to education of white Missourians in the state university, regardless of any difference Gaines might have to pay in transportation or subsistence costs.

It may be true that white students have to pay tuition to go to the University of Missouri, whereas under existing arrangements Negro students can go to the out-of-state university free. But what do the white students get for their money? First and foremost, they preserve the rights and dignity of their citizenship. Second, they get the benefit of all the tax moneys which the state of Missouri year after year pours into the University of Missouri. Third, they have the advantage of any specialization which the University of Missouri gives to Missouri problems, and the advantage of associating with the future leaders of Missouri. In exchange for this the state banishes its Negro students with a hundred dollars or so for each as tuition in an out-of-state university where they enroll not by right, but by tolerance as strangers and outsiders.

Basis of True Equality

There can be no true equality in a state educating its white students at home and exiling its Negro students beyond the state border. But if there could be a money equivalent it would not be tuition alone. The state would at least have to give the Negro student: (1) an allowance equivalent to the per capita expenditure for white students taking the same course in the state university, based not only on the current appropriations for running expenses but also on a computation of the annual income which a sum equal to the capital investment in university plant (ground, buildings, equipment) would produce; (2) plus an allowance for differential in transportation costs; and (3) an allowance for differential in subsistence costs.

At the outset of the campaign many persons believed the financial equivalent to Negro students excluded from the state university would be the total of the three differentials in tuition, transportation and subsistence. But reflection will show this basis is unsound. In the first place the full differential theory is based on the respective costs to the students, white and colored. But the 14th

amendment does not measure costs between students; it measures state action: "No state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Therefore, the determining factor is what the state has done and is doing. The state of Missouri has poured and is pouring millions of dollars into the state university for the education of white students, which works out to a per capita expenditure of nearly a thousand dollars for the white students, while it banishes its Negro students with a pittance never over two hundred dollars per student.

A second objection to the full differential theory is that its application has no standard of certainty, but depends wholly on what out-of-state university the Negro student may happen to pick. There is no uncertainty, however, about the per capita expenditure on the education of white students in the home state university.

Students Should Use Money

There were two great differences in the factual situations between the University of Maryland case and the University of Missouri case. Maryland had no provision for the graduate and professional education of Negroes, not even on paper. It had a scholarship law, but when the Murray case was tried there were three applications for every scholarship available, and the court ruled that Murray did not have to gamble on being in the lucky third.

In Missouri, however, the state in 1921 had passed an act changing the name of Lincoln Institute to Lincoln University, and on paper had given the board of curators of the new "Lincoln University" the same powers as the board of curators of the University of Missouri, with further proviso that pending full development of Lincoln University, its board of curators be empowered to pay the tuition of Negro students in adjacent state universities. The supreme court of Missouri ruled the scholarship provisions were intended as a mere temporary expedient during the transition period when Lincoln Institute would emerge as a real university.

But the tragic note in the Gaines case was that the Negro college youth of Missouri had not used up all the scholarship money as in Maryland. There was over a thousand dollars in the scholarship fund in Missouri left unallocated when the Gaines suit was tried, so no argument could be made that a scholarship for Gaines was not available. This is the second challenge to Negro college youth: that they grasp and cling to every bit of educational opportunity offered, and constantly clamor for more.

Oklahoma, Kentucky and Virginia also have out-of-state scholarship laws now. Such a law was introduced in the last session of the Texas legislature, but failed to pass. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas have no provisions whatsoever for the graduate and professional training of Negro youth. There is the third challenge to the college youth of the last named states.

Difficulties of Fight

This fight for graduate and professional training for Negro college youth has its difficulties. First is the question of time. The individual college youth cannot wait forever until the problem of his education is decided. For example Lloyd Gaines took his A.B. in 1935 and wanted to begin at once on a three-year law course. It is now 1937 but the question is still unsettled. If the United States supreme court reviews Gaines's case it will hardly be decided before the close of registration in September, 1938. So even if it is finally decided that the University of Missouri must admit Gaines, he will not be able to start on his three-year law course until 1939, four years after being graduated from college. These fights demand a continuity which the average individual student cannot give.

Here is a challenge to Negro college fraternities and sororities. The individual student's days are numbered; but the fraternities and sororities (graduate and undergraduate chapters) remain. The group student life represented by the fraternities and sororities has continuity; it can afford to wait, even to outwait the forces of reaction. Membership may change; but the fraternity or sorority can hammer at these educational inequalities year after year until equality is finally won.

Next, there is no established law concerning what is equality of graduate and professional training. Such law as exists the N.A.A.C.P. has made since 1935. Naturally, a certain amount of experimentation is inevitable. The program needs not only continuity, but also students and money so that if one experiment does not succeed, another experiment may be tried. No one need fear that the N.A.A.C.P. will make the same mistake twice. Here is the second challenge to the Negro college youth in their group life. Will the fraternities and the sororities furnish the students and the money for the necessary test cases to find the weak points in the reactionary lines? The students must be courageous; they must have good records which cannot be challenged on any ground except race; and they must have the support of their fellow students, both those in school and those who are out.

Problem for Race

As to money, the grant from the American Fund for Public Service, Inc., has been exhausted. It never was the idea of the American Fund to finance this equal education fight through to the very end. The directors of the fund were interested only in pointing the way. Their theory was that if the Negro college youth were shown the pathway, they and their elders would then carry the fight on their own shoulders. If they do not want graduate and professional education enough to fight for it, the fund would not force it on them. Essentially leadership must develop from the aspirations, determinations, sacrifices and needs of the group itself. Another challenge.

A human note of encouragement showing that the fight for graduate and professional education is generating spontaneously out of the group itself is shown by the fact that up to date in the present educational campaign all the cases have been fought by the Negro lawyers who have practically donated their services. The Murray case was fought chiefly by Thurgood Marshall of Baltimore. Marshall's family pays taxes in Baltimore, but he had to go to the District of Columbia for his legal education. Sidney R. Redmond, now of St. Louis but formerly of Mississippi, and Henry D. Espy, now of St. Louis but formerly of Florida, were local counsel for Gaines. Both Redmond and Espy in their student days were and now are property owners and taxpayers in their home states, but they could not study law there. Redmond went to Harvard in Massachusetts, and Espy came from Florida to Howard university in the District of Columbia. Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville, counsel in the University of Tennessee case, had to get his legal education in New York.

A Negro has handicaps enough without having to pay taxes to support the education of white students to learn how to suppress him. The opportunities of education are not equal now; but if the Negro college youth of this generation accept the challenge, they can go far toward making educational opportunities equal, if not for themselves, then for the little Negro children now in the primary and secondary schools.

The fight will go on. It must. The Negro teachers have already picked up their fight for equal salaries and in Maryland, Virginia and Florida are financing the campaign themselves. The fraternities and sororities have all done their bit in the fight for graduate and professional education. But the real test of strength is yet to come.

March Wind

By Edna Quinn

Bess Craven was faithful unto death—a death hastened by her thrift and her love for a talkative scoundrel

THE night winds spoke of death. The cold March wind that howled round the little cottage, and tapped at doors and wept at windows in a futile effort to communicate to any who would listen, the secret of the death that had befallen Bessie Craven.

Bess Craven was dead. Dead after a marriage of eleven months to Eric Finley.

To begin with, it was remarkable that Bess Craven and Eric Finley had ever married. It was like the grotesque mating of a jack-daw and a sparrow. Eric Finley would remind you of the jack-daw. Tall and large and black was Eric, with an overwhelming and unscrupulous love for the glittering things of life, and possessing an enormous gift of gab. A gift, by the way, that served to make Eric distasteful to most people who knew him, for invariably, Eric's chief topic of conversation was himself. But it was this very gift which had endeared Eric to the heart of Bessie. Bessie was the sparrow: little, drab, and homely, loved by none, execrated by many, maintaining her existence by sheer pluck and effrontery.

Bessie was a cook. And so was Eric. But Bessie had cooked fourteen years straight for the wealthiest white family in town, while Eric was occasional cook for a gang of construction laborers. It is a far cry from sweetbreads and apricot mousse prepared by an expert like Bessie and served to the cream of the quality by a dapper, brown-skinned butler, to mulligan stew and thick corn cakes dispensed by a perspiring, grinning Eric to a band of husky compatriots.

But one night at a picnic as Bessie sat solitary on a bench and watched the dancers inside of the pavilion swing easily through the bone-twisting gyrations of the Haile-Selassie, Eric and a boon companion had dropped down on the other end of the bench and begun to talk. That is, Eric talked. And as he held forth upon his skill in preparing hash and slum and other plebeian dishes, Bessie's dull eyes brightened and her heavy lips parted with rapt and eager interest. Noting this, Eric talked on, apparently un-noting. Six weeks later Bessie Craven and Eric Finley were married.

Folks had always called Bess Craven queer. An orphan at the age of twenty, she had worked on and converted the rambling old shack left to her by her parents into a neat five-room cottage, furnished from front to back in irreproachable taste. This was all very well, but when Bess persisted in living there all alone, steadfastly refusing the companionship of her sister or her sister's children, folks called her queer. But then, the older settlers said, her mother had been queer before her. Born and reared in the town of Sundale, at the time of her death Bessie had not one real friend. As a maiden, she had kept to herself; as a wife, she had been amply satisfied with Eric's company.

The way she shunned her sister and her sister's children was queer enough, declared Sundale, but her marrying Eric Finley was the queerest yet. Eric Finley, who hadn't a dollar he could call his own, who lived a semi-vagrant life; Eric, part-time construction gang cook, part-time plain bum.

In the face of all that, however, Bessie Craven married Eric. What is more, she was happy with him, happy up to the very day of her death. Now, after eleven short months of wedded life, she lay dead at the age of thirty-five. She lay in her pretty little parlor, stretched stiffly inside the beautiful lavender half-couch casket, while outside the cold March winds sobbed and shuddered, whistled and sighed as they attempted to tell the facts about her demise.

IT was the night before the funeral. The watchers at the wake, just two in number, sat beside the glowing stove in the dining room and listened to the prattle of the wind. In Sundale two beside the family was an unheard of small number to be present at a wake, but Bess had kept to herself in life, said Sundale, so she was left to herself in death. Only these two, who were the maid and the laundress at the house where Bess had been cook, chose to sacrifice a night's rest and watch beside her bier. Eric sat in the kitchen conversing in low tones with his aged mother and Bess Craven's sister who, even now, although the night had just begun, was preparing to depart.

"I must go home and see about my old man and the kids," Bess's sister was saying, "tomorrow will be a hard day, with the funeral an' all. An' I need the rest."

The two watchers by the stove in the next room exchanged sly smiles. It was known that Bess's sister and her kids had been cut off without a cent. Bess had left her house, lot, all personal property, money on hand and in bank to her beloved husband, Eric Finley.

"Tomorrow will be a hard day, all right," whispered one watcher to the other, "tomorrow an' a great many other tomorrows. She's so disappointed she's almost dead, too. She thought maybe Bess would leave her or her kids something. An' now, not to even get a old dress. An' this nice house! I saw Bess's bank book, by accident, just before she took sick. One round thousand dollars in the bank! That Eric Finley is a lucky scoundrel, sure."

Lucky Eric may have been, and scoundrel he surely was, but at that moment his conduct was above reproach. With his eyes tear-reddened to just the proper degree he was lamenting his wife's death to his sister-in-law.

"We was made for each other, me an' Bess," he quavered, his sleek, black face twitching with emotion, "an' to think that we only got to spend such a short time together. We'd loved each other all our lives, me an' Bess, but we was kept apart by fate, an' when we did meet her time was almost up. But I'd 'a' never dreamt it then." The winds joined their lamentations with Eric as Bess Craven's sister went out into the night. Still gently weeping Eric stoked the fire in the dining room, nodded and smiled meekly and apologetically at the two watchers, then subsided quietly into a large easy chair.

"Well, it really don't seem possible that Bess's gone," observed the housemaid, tentatively, after a brief silence, "we'll sure miss her at the house, won't we, Mag?"

Mag, the laundress, nodded emphatically, "Fourteen years she worked there an' the white folks thought their eyes of her. Fourteen years. Long before you or me ever thought of startin' there. An' longer by a long sight than I'll ever stay if Mis' Fabin don't stop puttin' in so many white clothes for the children." And the laundress shifted her gum with a determined air.

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Editorials

Diamond Jubilee

JANUARY 1, 1938 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was signed September 22, 1862, and went into effect January 1, 1863. We believe we are accurate when we state that Negro Americans greet this diamond jubilee with mixed emotions. There are millions of colored people who will hail it sentimentally and repeat all the exaggerated phrases which have been used in years past about the glory of the progress of colored people.

But great numbers of Negroes, looking at the years since 1863 through untinted glasses, will find little cause for whooping up a celebration of the seventy-fifth year of freedom. This does not mean that progress has not been made or that many advances have not been significant and worthy of note. But if we consider the seventy-five years in relation to progress toward full citizenship rights (the real meaning of emancipation) we cannot be blamed for not breaking out in unrestrained paeans of joy.

Despite the amendments to the United States Constitution, about eight millions of us are prevented from voting.

In a country where public education is regarded as the birthright of every child, millions of our children receive little or no public education, and our teachers are paid slightly more than field hands.

Lynching mobs are still free to shoot, hang and roast human beings with no fear of punishment even though their members may be known to all police and prosecuting authorities.

A United States congressman is able to state (and be believed) in the nation's capitol that certain legislation cannot be passed because it would provide equal pay for white and black "and you can't do that."

Thus on the broad citizenship questions of the right to exercise the franchise, the right to public education provided out of the treasury of the taxes of all the people, the right to safety from mobs and a trial by jury, and the right to employment on the basis of labor return rather than color of the laborer, the Negro is still, seventy-five years after slavery, far from being emancipated.

In addition, Negro Americans suffer all the cruelties of the degrading devices of the color line. Ambition is crushed and the spirit is soured.

How, then, can we sing hosannas for a diamond jubilee? We have come along a little way. Here and there a talented one among us has made his way, against heartbreaking odds, to a place among men. Here and there a custom has been changed and a victory won. Many white lovers of freedom, staunch and true, have rallied to our aid. But the very existence, for instance, of such an organization as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is proof that in this seventy-fifth year of "freedom" there is little of liberty for black people.

This year of 1938 must be for us not a jubilee year, for looking backward and recounting the little skirmishes of past decades; but a year of looking forward, of planning and mobilizing our forces for an unremitting assault upon the objectives which so far have eluded us. We must have jobs. We must be free of the terror of mobs. We must have education. We must have the ballot. We must wipe out the humiliations inherent in segregation and discrimination. In a word, we must have social equality.

Armed with the experience of the past seventy-five years and the strength and skill and daring of our young men, and of the young men of the other race, we must launch a new crusade for the kind of emancipation over which we (and our country) can stage a Great Jubilee.

More Chickens Coming Home to Roost

A LITTLE more than ten years ago the N.A.A.C.P. was engaged in a strenuous and expensive legal battle in Gary, Ind., to prevent the establishment of a separate public high school for Negroes in that city of steel. The battle was lost, partly, but not wholly, because certain groups of colored people joined the whites in the clamor for a "school of our own so our teachers can have jobs."

Today the aid of the N.A.A.C.P. is being solicited in an effort to have Negro teachers accepted in one of the high schools *not* built for Negroes exclusively. The plaintive cry is now that qualified teachers ought to be able to teach in any high school in Gary. And so they should. But once the pattern of segregation has been accepted by the Negro group, the doors are shut against service by merit only.

This is one more incident illustrating that Negroes, no matter what fancy language may be used to dress up the proposition, can *never* accept a plan of segregation. The record shows that whenever such agreements are entered into, inevitably the chickens of proscription, limited opportunity, and inequality come home to roost.

LIFE'S Party

IN its issue of December 6, LIFE, the picture magazine, devoted most of four pages to pictures of a party for Negro debutantes in Dallas, Tex. A regular feature of LIFE is "LIFE Goes to a Party," and each week some social event is pictured. Now, on December 6, LIFE might have followed the pattern of most publications edited by and for white people: it could have poked fun at Negroes. It could have ridiculed a Negro party. It could have laughed slyly, or openly and brutally, at a party for Negro debutantes of impeccable families. It could have chuckled over the white man's favorite joke: the pretensions of Negroes and their imitation of whites.

But LIFE chose to be honest and dignified. In its pictures of the Dallas party and in its captions it treated the event as it would have treated a similar party among whites. The striking thing about the party as pictured was this very similarity to whites, indicating once more that Negroes are only pigmented Americans. They think, act, dress, work, have fun, and dine in pretty much the same pattern as white Americans. In bringing out this fact with its cameras and caption writers LIFE has done only the thing that thinking Negroes want most: to be treated according to their merits as citizens and not to be "typed" as buffoons, veneered sevages, voodoo artists, buck-and-wing minstrels, children, or brutes.

Still Balked

AS every student of the situation predicted, Mussolini is having more than a little difficulty in subduing Ethiopia and gaining recognition from the world of his conquest of the ancient kingdom. His fighters and road builders in Ethiopia are continually harassed by the fighting tribesmen, who undoubtedly will prove truoblesome for years to come. In Europe, Il Duce was rebuffed again by the League of Nations which in September seated the delegates of Ethiopia in its assembly.

March Wind

(Continued from page 16)

Eric spoke now. "Yes, fourteen years," said he, with a trumpet-like blow of his nose, "That's a long time to stay by one family. But Bess was faithful. That was Bess—faithful as the sun. If we'd 'a' lived together eleven hundred years instead of eleven months Bess would of still been faithful to the last. Oh I know it's all for the best, but I can't stand it—I can't."

Slumping down into the depths of his chair he buried his face in his hands. His old mother hobbled in and, with much ado, proceeded to comfort her grieving son. "Well," said Eric at length, as he pocketed his handkerchief with a long sigh, "you're right, ma. I must brace up an' be a man—I will." Suiting action to word he went into the kitchen and bestirred himself manfully with the result that within a short space of time the maid and the laundress, his mother and himself were seated cosily around the dining room table, enjoying a lunch that had no parallel in all the previous wakes observed in Sundale. Hot hamburger patties, with onion and pickle, french-fried potatoes, coffee with real cream, tea for the laundress (who by reason of a weak heart eschewed coffee) home made chocolate covered drop cakes, thick slices of home made bread and butter.

"No," repeated Eric after an interval, his utterance slightly thickened by food, "it seems like I really can't realize it. Bess dead! An' we loved each other so."

"She was sick a month, just about, wasn't she, Mr. Finley?" queried Mag the laundress.

"In bed just a month to the day," answer Eric, solemnly and heavily, "she had ulcers of the stomach, that's what caused her death."

The laundress and the housemaid exchanged covert glances. So the thing was out at last. They'd often wondered just what had ailed Bess. Some had said one thing, some another. But you could be pretty sure that blab-mouthed Eric would tell the thing just like it was.

"Ulcers of the stomach," the housemaid was thrilled, "but whatever causes such things, Mr. Finley?" Eric bit into another drop cake. "It's hard to tell just what does cause things like that," he said, "I just don't know—she was complaining before she quit work. I made her go see the doctor, but Bess got bedfast an' first thing I knew she was gone. Yes, ulcers of the stomach—that's what's on the death certificate."

The lunch was ended. Eric's mother cleared away the dishes and the others drew their chairs closer to the fire.

"Yes, she's gone," the bereft husband repeated thoughtfully, "an' she's left every thing to me. Made a will in black an' white, two weeks before she died." He went to the sideboard drawer, returned with a folded document which he handed to the housemaid. "Read for yourself," he said, and with staring eyes the housemaid read. It was true. Bess had bequeathed him everything. Lucky Eric Finley!

Now Eric proceeded to divert and entertain the watchers. He showed them silverware, beautiful hand-worked covers and bed-sets, handsome quilts, towels and comforters, all left to him by his loving, thrifty wife. And when these things had been admired and exclaimed over and returned to their proper places, he sat him down to talk. The clock struck two, and Eric still talked on. Struck three; the watchers stirred and nodded, nodded and roused, then to themselves cried plague on Eric's never-ceasing voice. He talked of many things: of how and when he first had met his wife, told tales of the construction camps, tales that were more thrilling than true.

Outside the wind screamed, moaned, then sobbed, then died. Beside the porch the house dog and a friend bellowed and bayed in the frenzy of their efforts to tell the wind that they, at least, understood. Finally, abandoning all hopes of sleep, the watchers settled themselves doggedly to listen.

"You see," came Eric's mellow voice, "Bess loved me because I was so good to her. An' I've been good to women all my life. Bess was my only love, the only woman I ever thought enough to marry. Of course, I took up with other women. Remember, Alice, ma, before we come to this part of the country?" His aged mother nodded affirmatively and sucked upon her pipe. "Alice was a woman I took up with. She was older than me 'cause I was just a kid. She was a pretty yellow woman, too. An' I made good money, six bucks a day, workin' on the concrete. Alice had a husband, but she put him out an' took me in. That's what made—Ma, don't this make you think somehow, of the night that I killed Charlie? Remember?" The mellow tone had left his voice, his eyes were wide and bright, his dark face twitched, so did his hands. The watchers noted these things sleepily, uncomprehending.

His mother cried out sharply, "Now Eric, don't start that! Remember? I've prayed to God every night since that night to please help me fergit!" Eric was standing up. "I didn't really know the man was dead," he said in a low voice, eyes fixed in space as though his listeners were forgotten, "Alice was in bed. I was in the kitchen readin' the paper. Somebody knocked on the door. Boom! Boom! Just like that. It was Charlie. Alice screamed: "Eric! Don't you go to that door!" But I had forgot to lock it. Charlie had been threaten' me—he was sore—He come in with a big, springback dirk knife—My gun was in the washstand drawer in the room where Alice was. He drawed back his knife—there was a shoe-hammer layin' on the floor—Alice used it to hold open the middle door. I reached down an' picked it up an' busted Charlie. An' his head split right half in two. But I didn't really know the man was dead."

As he sank to his seat his mother, somehow infected with this strange delirium, took up the fearful saga. "Eric gived hisself up," she proclaimed shrilly, "he run away that night, but after a while he gived hisself up. Then he killed a guard in the pen." "He knocked me down an' cussed me," defended Eric, sullenly, "I knocked him in the head with a pick."

The housemaid, aroused at last, burst out, "Why, it's a wonder they didn't give you life for that! But I guess they never caught you." This interruption staunched the flow of reminiscence. Eric grinned sheepishly and poked the fire, his mother settled back into her chair.

"Just listen to that wind! It's gettin' colder," said the laundress after some deadly quiet moments had passed, "That wind is surely screechin'." Then later on. "It's five o'clock. We better go. We want to git an early start with our work so's we can git off for the funeral. Mr. an' mis' Fabin's goin' to the funeral, too." And Eric sighed and nodded, showing just the correct amount of resigned, yet heartfelt grief. "I thank you for comin', ladies," he said, "to set the last night with me. The last night that Bess will ever spend in her home—our home. We loved each other so."

The two watchers delicately averted their faces that they might not look upon his tears. The door shut behind them.

ERIC glanced around and saw his aged mother sleeping in her chair—her mouth wide open. For a moment he stood there, then tiptoeing cautiously into the bedroom—his bedroom and the late Bess Finley's—he fumbled about in the dim glow that came from the dining room lights. From deep down in his trunk he drew forth a vial.

For a long moment he gazed at it, then stealing silently into the kitchen he proceeded, with a minimum amount

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From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

The Road to Peace

Baltimore, Md., *Afro-American*

DESPITE all efforts of peace societies and movements to promote international good will, the war machines of nations rattle on with increasing fury and destruction.

Peace societies do little, if anything, to bring about peace in the world. The reason is, no doubt, that peace societies do not strike at the fundamental causes of war within the various countries.

During the World War, good-natured Henry Ford dispatched his "Peace Ship" to Europe with the fond expectation that it would bring about an abrupt ending of the conflict. And the efforts of most peace societies are conducted with about the same insight and lack of practicality as the Ford expedition.

Within each country exist the conditions which make for peace or war. Pressure from international maladjustment, including overpopulation, lack of raw materials which supply the necessities of life, and group and racial exploitations are seeds certain to sprout war movements sooner or later.

No peace societies can halt these deepseated forces by ethical preachment. Human beings are not made that way.

A time may come in some future in which the civilized world will develop some concert of nations in which an organized world police force will keep the peace. But that time is not yet.

What peace societies should understand is that there is a great deal that must be done in every civilized country to get their own houses in order before they can turn to their neighbor.

We can't expect nations, with their own pockets bulging with stolen loot, to help organize an international police force to stop thieves. We cannot expect nations to recommend humane laws for other nations when they haven't solved their own race problems at home.

If these peace societies will devote the efforts they are using abroad to application of the Golden Rule at home, we will develop a condition where men will stop this ghastly business of bloody wars.

We cannot expect to clean up the world until we get our own houses in order. And we cannot have peace among nations until we have peace and genuine brotherhood in each nation. Peace as well as charity always begins at home.

To some it is coincidence, but to the reverent it is providential that the "iron lung" bought at the instigation of Negroes for their hospital in Kansas City first served a white patient. The suffering of this child was a test of the Negro community. It responded with the sympathetic kindness traditional of its race. The action of the hospital in granting the use of their appliance has met with general approval. That is as it should be.

To refuse to relieve human suffering is not one whit better than to cause it. A few years ago when a Negro sufferer was refused entry to a hospital and died because he did not receive early treatment, the act was inexcusable. Now came our chance to set a right pattern . . .—*The Call*, Kansas City, Mo.

The refusal of the United States Supreme Court to review the case of Heywood Patterson, one of the five Scottsboro boys still in prison in Alabama, is a distinct victory for Alabama politicians who have been using the case for fostering their political ambitions . . .

This reactionary decision, the most indefensible that has yet been rendered by the court, causes us to wonder as to the identity of the eight members of the court with the Ku Klux Klan. We know that Justice Black is one, but we were in doubt as to the others . . .

Its refusal to review, in a case in which the constitutional rights of an American citizen are clearly violated, gives support to the necessity of judicial reform in the present constitution of the court. Otherwise reactionary forces, such as are in action today in the Supreme Court, will gradually invalidate all of the rights of the minority people.—Chicago *Defender*.

Brud Holland of Cornell University, has been chosen a member of the All-American football team by a group of sports writers from all over the country. Not only is this an honor, but recognition of outstanding ability.

In the announcement of the selection in the newspapers recently, the writer of the article called attention to the fact that the selection was not only a surprise, but the fact that a large share of the votes for him came from southern sports writers was a surprise also concluding that this was evidence that there was no room for race prejudice in sports. . . .—Iowa *Bystander*.

Our boasters of race purity have only to go back far enough, and they will find at their beginning either a monkey or mud.—Cincinnati *Union*.

Three South African protectorates of Great Britain—Bechuanaland, Swaziland and Basutoland, have turned thumbs down on a proposal that they come into the Union of South Africa.

This is not surprising. Here in America, with our radios and fast automobiles (with their faster installment collectors) we are often inclined to call our African cousins slightly dumb. Frequently, however, they surprise us with their sagacity.

The refusal to come any closer to the South African Union than they now are is one of those surprising instances. The "wild" African natives of the veldt and bush know that the vaunted Nordic democracy is never extended to include darker souls; they know that the recent attitude of the Union's government toward the abuses its imperialists have heaped on South African coal, tin and copper miners bodes them no good. They know that "pass systems," jim crow public utilities, labor concentration camps and an absence of recourse from the courts are a few of the "benefits" they would receive for throwing their one and a quarter million people into the Union of South Africa.

Very wisely, for a people we regard as "savage," they refuse to have any part of it.—Boston *Chronicle*.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Special Session May Pass Anti-Lynching Bill

As this is being written, the debate on the farm bill in the Senate is not yet completed but there are indications that the farm bill may be disposed of by December 17. The special session of Congress, called November 15 by President Roosevelt, has set December 22 as the date for adjourning and, therefore, it is possible that upon finishing with the farm bill, the Senate may enact the anti-lynching bill.

Considerable pressure has been brought to bear upon Senators Robert F. Wagner and Frederick VanNuys to get them to agree to a consideration of the housing bill prior to the anti-lynching bill. According to the Senate agreement of August 12, the anti-lynching bill was to have the place on the calendar directly behind the farm bill. The pressure to get the housing bill substituted for the anti-lynching bill is being brought by the lobby which is seeking legislation to stimulate business. It is felt that the housing bill should receive first call because of the president's desire to stimulate investment in housing and consequently stimulate employment.

Senators Wagner and VanNuys, however, have indicated that they will demand action on the anti-lynching bill since there are more than enough votes in the Senate to pass it if the Senate cares to act without filibustering on the measure.

If the anti-lynching bill, for any reason, should not be acted upon at the special session of Congress, it will be the first order of business at the regular session which opens in January.

The filibuster of November 16–22 in the Senate was condemned by the leading newspapers of the country, among which were several southern papers. The Durham, N. C., *Herald* said editorially: "southern senators do violence to the principles of democracy they presume to defend when they resort to filibuster tactics to forestall a vote on a focused issue."

The Chicago *Times* declared: "the tactics of alleged public servants in filibustering at this time when the national good calls for orderly and speedy action by Congress isn't going to be well received by the public."

And the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* says: "the filibuster is a questionable legislative device at best, but when it is designed to thwart the will of majorities of better than 2-to-1 in both branches of Congress, it is more dubious than ever."

Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, has been in Washington for approximately five days out of every week in the interest of the anti-lynching bill.

The Columbus, O., branch board of directors is already busy with plans for the 29th annual conference of the NAACP to be held there next June. Seated, left to right: James Trotter, Mrs. J. S. Skelton, assistant secretary, Attorney Elsie Austin, Maude L. Jones, secretary, Evelyn B. Lewis, John Kinzer. Standing, Barbee W. Durham, vice-president, C. E. Dickinson, Sr., Florence Thomas, Percy I. Lowery, treasurer, Mrs. R. E. Jones, B. E. Slaughter, Jesse G. Dickinson. Isobel Chisholm not shown

Differentials Opposed In Wage-Hour Bill

The plan to include a wage differential as between the north and the south in the wage-hour bill before the House and the Senate was opposed by the N.A.A.C.P. on the ground that the cost of living, revealed by statistics of the department of lahor, did not justify such differentials.

It is the contention of the N.A.A.C.P. that a lower wage scale for the south will mean a still lower wage scale for Negro workers.

The association quoted department of labor statistics to show that it cost more to live in certain southern states than it does in New York or Chicago.

In a letter to the New York *Herald-Tribune* December 6, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary wrote:

"This myth (that it is cheaper to live in the south) is completely exploded by a recent study by the Department of Labor. This study reveals that the cost of rent, fuel and light is lower in the south but that clothing, house furnishing goods and other necessities are *more* expensive. There is little difference in the cost of food when the prices of commodities necessary to make up a minimum standard of living are compared. When all items are averaged, the startling revelation is made that the cost of living in many southern cities is considerably greater than in many northern cities. For example, the index of the cost of goods purchased by wage-earners and lower-salaried workers, as of September 15, shows that the average for all items in Chicago is 81.3, but in Atlanta the average is 83.9; in Baltimore, 88.2; in Jacksonville, 82.4; in Norfolk, 86.9; in Savannah, 83.3; in Memphis, 82.9; in Mobile, 85.1; in New Orleans, 85.2."

The Louisville, Ky., branch recently completed a successful membership campaign. Upper right, C. A. Liggin, general chairman; upper left, Mrs. McKinney, co-captain second highest team; lower left, Mrs. Jennie Liggin, co-captain second team; lower right, Mrs. Bessie Etherly, secretary, who brought in large number of new members

Virginia Teachers Will Sue For Equal Pay

At a meeting of the Virginia State Teachers' Association at Hampton, Va., during the Thanksgiving weekend, it was voted unanimously to take legal action in the courts of the state to secure equal salaries for Negro teachers with white teachers performing the same service, with the same qualifications and the same experience.

The teachers voted $1,000 out of their treasury for the initial expenses of such legal action and pledged themselves to raise $4,000 more. The teachers heard an address by Thurgood Marshall, Esq., assistant special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., who told of the successful legal action in Montgomery county, Md., and of the pending court case in Calvert county, Md.

St. Louis Citizens Win School Fight

Judge Robert J. Kirkwood on December 6 granted a permanent injunction against the St. Louis, Mo., board of education preventing it from erecting a 17-room elementary school building in the yard of the Vashon high school in St. Louis.

The plan of the school board was opposed by the N.A.A.C.P. branch and many other Negro organizations on the ground that the new school would further crowd an already crowded school area.

The school board turned a deaf ear to petitions and arguments so that legal action was necessary. Vashon high school is one of the two high schools for Negroes in St. Louis. Henry Armstrong, national featherweight champion, is a graduate of Vashon.

The citizens were represented by Attorneys George L. Vaughn, S. R. Redmond and Robert L. Witherspoon. The court costs were financed by the St. Louis N.A.A.C.P. and the Civic Co-operative League.

Armory Sought For Ohio Guardsmen

The Columbus, Ohio, branch of the N.A.A.C.P. is active in seeking regimental headquarters for the second battalion of the Ohio national guard, which in war time will become part of the 372nd infantry along with units from the District of Columbia and Massachusetts. The regiment lacks facilities for training. A joint resolu-

tion for the establishment of regimental headquarters was passed by the Ohio general assembly in 1935-36 and acted upon favorably by the President of the United States and the Secretary of War, but an appropriation is needed from the state of Ohio.

In connection with this matter and other legislative matters affecting colored citizens of Ohio, the Columbus branch has secured a lobbyist in the person of Jesse G. Dickinson to act for the branch. Mr. Dickinson is president of the Columbus branch, which, incidentally, will be host to the 29th annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. next June. Others who will serve on the legislative committee with Mr. Dickinson will be B. F. Hughes, of Columbus; Dr. A. S. Burton, Newark; and Mrs. E. R. Davis, Cincinnati.

Dr. J. M. Tinsley Heads Virginia Conference

The Virginia state conference of branches met in a one-day session November 27 at Hampton institute and was reorganized with Dr. J. M. Tinsley, president of the Richmond branch, as president. Other officers are Dr. D. V. Estill, South Boston, vice-president; Dr. Luther B. Jackson, Ettrick, secretary; and J. A. Reynolds, Roanoke, treasurer. The one-day meeting was addressed by Thurgood Marshall and E. Frederic Morrow of the New York office. Mr. Morrow, the new coordinator of branches of the association, outlined a plan for integrating local programs of branches into the national program of the association and pledged the delegates every cooperation from his office in building an active organization in Virginia.

Missouri Supreme Court Upholds Student Ban

The barring of Lloyd Gaines, Negro graduate of Lincoln university of the state of Missouri, from the law school of the University of Missouri was upheld December 9 by the Missouri supreme court, which has had the case under advisement for many months.

Gaines sought a writ of mandamus in the court of Columbia, Mo., seat of the university, to compel the university officials to admit him as a student in the law school. His petition maintained that he was a citizen ot the state of Missouri and was entitled to graduate and professional training in the tax-supported university of the state. Missouri has a separate school system and a university for Negroes, but that university (Lincoln) does not offer professional training.

It was the contention of Gaines and his lawyers, S. R. Redmond, of St. Louis, and Charles H. Houston, N.A.A.C.P. counsel of New York, that the state was violating the 14th amendment to the constitution by failing to provide equal training for all students regardless of color.

The petition to compel entrance to the law school of the state university was the only remedy open to Gaines to secure his rights, it was contended.

Attorneys for Gaines, backed by the N.A.A.C.P., expected a reversal in the Missouri supreme court and have announced that a review of the case will be sought from the United States supreme court.

MRS. ZAIDEE MAHONE

One of the consistent and loyal Chicago workers for the NAACP. She sold more anti-lynching buttons than anyone else

Branch News

The **Cincinnati, O.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. opened its annual campaign for membership with a mass meeting at the Ninth St. Y.M.C.A., Sunday, November 7. The principal address was delivered by the Rev. C. Baker Pearle, pastor of Brown's Chapel A.M.E. church.

William Pickens, director of branches of the N.A.A.C.P., delivered the principal address at a mass meeting November 12 for the **Nashville, Tenn.,** branch. The Rev. A. J. Simmons is president of the branch and E. T. Brown, chairman of the executive committee.

Robert M. Evans was reelected president of the **Port Huron, Mich.,** branch at the annual meeting on Friday, November 12. Rev. Luther Strickland was reelected vice-president; Leroy King, secretary; Mr. Knox, assistant secretary; and Mrs. J. R. Ware, treasurer. Dr. J. R. Ware, William Glover, Mrs. Gussie Turner, J. W. Jackson, the Rev. H. G. Simmons, the Rev. Y. F. Akers and Edward Wood were named members of the executive committee.

The auxiliary of the **Morristown, N. J.,** Senior branch met in the Phyllis Wheatley Club rooms November 1 and elected the following officers: Mrs. Sarah Stoutenburgh, president; Mrs. Agnes Taylor, vice-president; Mrs. Elsie Furman, secretary; Miss Cassie Robinson, treasurer; Miss Emma Arnold, publicity. Mrs. Robert N. Tucker was named chairman of the Christmas festival, and a meeting was held Wednesday, November 10, at the club rooms to arrange details for the party at which all the Morris County children under 12 years of age will be guests.

The **Bridgeport, Conn.,** branch held its annual meeting and election of officers on November 16.

W. O. Walker, editor of the Cleveland **Call and Post,** was elected president of the **Cleveland, O.,** branch at the association's annual meeting November 15. The principal speaker for the evening was Richard Reisinger, president of the District Auto Council, No. 3, of the United Automobile Workers of America.

The **Pueblo, Colo.,** branch held its annual meeting at the St. Paul A.M.E. church, Sunday, November 7. The principal address was delivered by the Rev. W. T. Liggins of LaJunta. The music was furnished by a sextet under the direction of Melba C. Paull.

The monthly meeting of the **Hartford, Conn.,** branch was held November 11 at the Federal College. New officers were elected and a program outlined for the new year.

The **Charleston, W. Va.,** branch held a mass meeting at the Garnet high school Monday, November 22. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the Charleston branch and the Scottsboro Defense Committee. The program committee consisted of T. G. Nutter, chairman of the executive committee; C. W. Boyd, the Rev. J. C. Austin, Homer Young, Mrs. J. A. Franklin, Mrs. Charlotte Lautner, Miss Mary L. Williams, and E. L. Powell. On the publicity committee are Willard L. Brown, S. J. Gordon, Mrs. Charlotte Lautner and J. A. Franklin.

The **Houston, Tex.,** branch met at the E. Trinity M.E. church November 14. New officers were elected. J. H. Harmon, Jr., a delegate to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia, spoke on his observations at the Congress.

The **Beloit, Wisc.,** branch held its regular monthly meeting Sunday, November 21 at the Second Methodist church.

The **Newark, N. J.,** branch began its campaign for 1,500 new members Sunday afternoon, December 5, with a tea at the home of Mrs. Walter Fenderson, 15 Elm St. Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., who was in charge of the campaign, established headquarters at the Urban League, 58 W. Market St. Sixteen teams were organized to canvass Newark. The youth council will assist.

Mr. Bagnall, former N.A.A.C.P. secretary, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the **Princeton, N. J.,** branch held Sunday, November 28 at the First Baptist church.

At the annual meeting of the **Morris County, N. J.,** Senior branch Dr. Leroy E. Baxter was reelected president for the seventh consecutive year. The other officers elected are: Mrs. Ernest B. Wetmore, first vice-president; Mrs. Lexington L. Taylor, second vice-president; Miss Clara Watson, secretary; Richard Burton, treasurer.

Dr. L. B. Ferguson was reelected president of the **Waterloo, Ia.,** branch at the annual meeting at the Mt. Carmel Baptist church, Friday, November 19. Other officers elected were: the Rev. J. H. Parker, vice-president; Miss Helen Brown, secretary; and the Rev. J. Richmond Morgan, treasurer. Miss Dorothy Crabb, executive secretary; of the Social Welfare league, was elected to the executive committee to fill a vacancy.

The group adopted a resolution calling upon each member to write a telegram to Senators Herring and Gillette urging them to support the anti-lynching bill in the Senate. Dr. J. E. Brinkman showed motion pictures taken in Alaska and northern Canada on a recent trip.

The annual meeting of the **Fairmont, W. Va.,** branch was held November 10 at the Dunbar high school. Officers were elected for the new year and a program of branch activities outlined.

The **El Paso, Tex.,** branch held its annual election of officers November 7 at the Masonic Hall.

The **Grand Rapids, Mich.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. met Sunday, November 21 and the following officers were elected for the year 1938: Mrs. Lula Johnson, president: the Rev. Albert Keith, vice-president; Fred D. Yell, secretary; Mrs. Katherine Larry, assistant secretary; Kelley March, treasurer. The members of the executive committee elected are: Floyd Skinner, George Smith, W. M. Jones, Jr., Mrs. Walter Coe, Howard Clark, Mrs. L. McElwee, Alexander Tynes, Mrs. J. G. Brown, Fr. John Burgers, and Mrs. Henry Glover.

The **Tacoma, Wash.,** branch held its annual meeting Sunday evening, November 21, at the Bethlehem Baptist church. The reports of the year were read. The following officers were elected: Dr. E. E. Elmore, president; Dr. L. C. Bowling, vice-president; James L. Beck, secretary, and Nettie J. Asberry, treasurer. The executive board members are: the Rev. W. I. Monroe, Mrs. O. Arnette, Mrs. Rachael Sadler, Eb. Wilson, Robert J. Jones, James Hallowell, Arthur L. Hayes. The guest speaker was Mr. Hutchins of Seattle. At the conclusion of this address the audience rose to acclaim its appreciation of the informative address.

The **Springfield, Ill.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. presented George S. Schuyler, lecturer and business manager of The Crisis, Thursday, December 2, at St. Paul's A.M.E. church, Sixth and Mason streets.

In the regular monthly meeting, the **Columbus, O.,** branch of the N.A.A.C.P. elected the following persons to office: Jesse G. Dickinson, president; Barbee Wm. Durham, vice-president; Miss Maude L. Jones, secretary; Mrs. J. S. Skelton, assistant secretary; and Percy I. Lowery, treasurer.

The additional members of the Board of Directors are: Attorney Elsie Austin, Miss Isobel Chisholm, C. E. Dickinson, Mrs. R. E. Jones, John Kinzer, Miss Evelyn B. Lewis, B. E. Slaughter, Miss Florence Thomas, and James Trotter.

N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council News

Annual Demonstration Against Lynching, February 11

Youth councils and college chapters of the Association have begun preparations for their second annual youth demonstration against lynching on February 11.

If the anti-lynching bill passes the Senate before the date of the demonstration, the activities will take the form of a victory celebration. Senators and congressmen who have aided in the bill's passage will be feted at victory mass meetings and city-wide public demonstrations, in the communities of their constituents. The provisions of the bill will be interpreted anew to the public. Emphasis will be placed upon the fact that the fight against lynching will not have ended with the passage of the bill; that there must be continued the nation-wide efforts to educate American public opinion, especially in the South, to prevent lynchings; that increased vigilance will be necessary by the branches of the Association and cooperating organizations to see that the provisions of the bill are invoked in the event of a lynching.

If, however, the bill will not have been passed by February 11, then this nation-wide demonstration will serve as a focal point for the mobilization of public opinion behind the last strenuous efforts to combat the machinations by a small minority in the Senate and to get the bill up for a vote.

Again this year, black arm bands will be worn as mourning for all those victims who have been lynched and as a means of arousing and educating public opinion against lynching. This year, emphasis will be laid on the basic relationship between the fight against lynching and the fight for the ballot, for equal job opportunities and for the equality of educational opportunities.

Interested organizations and church groups desirous of cooperating in this demonstration and securing arm bands and literature may write to 69 Fifth avenue, New York City, for further information.

Gary Denied Church for Mass Meeting

The Gary, Indiana, youth council was refused permission to hold its mass meeting against educational inequalities three days before the scheduled date by

(*Continued on next page*)

Rowe Photo

Some members and officers of the Rochester, N. Y., youth council: standing left to right: Miss Estelle Fitzgerald, adviser, Gordon Kenney, membership chairman, Elizabeth Thomas, Anna Jentons, Ina Thorne, Walter Stewart, Robert Beckley, Beatrice Johnson. Seated: William Holmes, Dixie Black, president, Arthur Blake, Belfreda Harrison

the pastor and trustees of St. James A.M.E. church.

The meeting, which had been arranged for November 10, in cooperation with a nation-wide observance of American Education Week by youth councils and college chapters of the Association, was being built around the discriminations which Negro schools face in athletic competition in Gary and throughout the state. Negro high schools are allowed only a limited membership in the Indiana high school athletic association. Protest to State Commissioner Arthur L. Trester had brought the reply that Section 3, Article II of the I.H.S.A.A. Constitution provided that: "Limited membership may be extended to colored high schools desiring to join the I.H.S.A.A. with the understanding that limited memberships shall extend to colored high schools belonging to the I.H.S.A.A., but not in meets and tourneys in which only the teams from the high schools of the same city participate."

The youth council publicized this in handbills and in other ways with the result that the church canceled the meeting, saying that the church was not the place for such a meeting.

Undaunted, the youth council moved the meeting to a hall, circulated new advertising and held a very enthusiastic meeting. The council has appointed a committee to follow up this case and is making a determined effort to eliminate discrimination in athletic competition in the school system of Gary.

Rochester Seeks Jobs in Factories

The youth council of the Rochester, N. Y., branch of the Association which was organized by Miss Juanita E. Jackson, director of youth work, while on a visit to the branch, has got under way its season's program.

At a meeting held at the Y.M.C.A. December 1, Miss Bea Johnson discussed the anti-lynching bill now before Congress, while the Rev. Mr. Rose reviewed the origin of the N.A.A.C.P.

At the present time the group is endeavoring to break down racial barriers in the employment of skilled workers in the Eastman Kodak factories. Arthur Blake, vice-president of the council, has been refused a position in the chemical laboratories of the factory, although he is a native of Rochester, graduate of the public schools, and holds a master's degree in chemistry which was obtained through successive scholarships at the University of Rochester.

Although Rochester is the center from which Frederick Douglass radiated much of his influence, and his monument in the center of the city proclaims the esteem and respect with which he has been held by all citizens, yet today members of his race are denied job opportunities in public utilities, civil service, municipal employment for the most part, and can only be employed as sweepers and janitors in the factories of Rochester.

MISS MYRTLE G. CAMPBELL
President, Boston Youth Council

An interracial committee of adults has been formed to confer with factory officials. Mary Black is president of the council, William Holmes is secretary, and Gordon Kinney is chairman of the membership committee.

Radio Broadcasts in Boston

The first of a series of weekly broadcasts by the Boston youth council over Station WORL, began on Tuesday, November 16, with Reynold Costa as chairman. The *a capella* choir under the direction of T. Henry Johnson furnished the musical numbers. A brief description of the aims, history, program and achievements of the Association was presented.

On November 23, Mrs. Edith Washington emphasized the interracial membership of the organization and outlined the fight for the passage of the federal anti-lynching bill.

A different member of the council presents the broadcast each week. They are assigned topics, and must arrange and write up the proposed broadcast and submit it to the broadcast committee, composed of senior branch as well as youth council officers. Those who have been selected to appear on subsequent broadcasts are Charles Quick, Henry Deas, Seaton Manning, Willard Ransom, Theresa Alexander, and Myrtle Campbell. Most of those scheduled to speak are students in Harvard law school, Boston university, and Simmons college.

At the regular meeting of the council on Saturday, November 20, the Rev. Jesse Trotter, assistant pastor of the historic Trinity church, spoke on the subject "Radical Trends and the Church."

Frank Silvera, youth member, spoke at the Trinity youth forum on Sunday, November 14, representing the youth council.

Education Meetings

The Canton, Ohio, youth council held their educational mass meeting November 10 in the auditorium of the Canton Urban League. Miss Jane Ball, Girls Work Secretary of the Urban League, and Mrs. Georgina Preyer were the speakers.

On November 14 Jesse Dickinson and Barbee Wm. Durham of the Columbus Ohio, branch were the speakers at a round table meeting held at the Phillis Wheatley. Miss Leslie V. Henley, the president of the youth council, presided. Mr. A. A. Andrews is the adviser.

Dean's Daughter Heads Talladega Council

In the recent election of officers at Talladega college chapter at Talladega, Alabama, Miss Catherine Cater, daughter of the dean of the college was elected president. Miss Fannie E. Frazier was elected vice-president, Miss Dorothy Palmer, corresponding secretary; Miss Joan Fraser, recording secretary; Sidney Johnson, treasurer, and Miss Hilda A. Davis, faculty adviser.

Among the problems which the chapter will deal with this year are: (1) the attendance of students at a "jim-crow" public movie house; (2) stimulating Talladega community to a better "break" for the education of Negro children (there is only one Negro school in town for a Negro school population of 900, and there are four white schools for a white school population something more than 1,500); (3) leading colored people of the community to become more resourceful and self-respecting by acquainting them with the progress and development of Negroes over the world through church programs and community activities.

During American Education Week, the chapter presented Miss Hilda Davis and Professor T. S. Jackson of the department of education of Talladega college in chapel programs on the status of education for Negroes in the southern states. Both programs were well attended by faculty and students and plans

were laid for the achievement of the chapter's objective in this area.

Form Youth Section of N. J. Conference

At a meeting of the New Jersey State Conference of Branches on Saturday, December 11, at 4 p.m., at the Y.W.C.A. in Orange, N. J., the first youth section of the conference was organized. More than 40 youth members representing seven youth councils in the state were in attendance.

Miss Eloise Collier of Rahway, N. J., was elected president, and Spencer Logan of Plainleld, N. J., vice-president. It was agreed that each youth council raise a minimum of ten dollars toward the defense fund which the state conference is establishing for the purpose of taking to court the Earl Collins civil service discrimination case.

The youth section further decided to organize youth councils in communities where there are senior branches but no organized youth units. A report of this activity will be made at the next meeting on the second Saturday in January.

Juanita Jackson at West Virginia College

Miss Juanita E. Jackson of the national office, spoke at the Sunday evening chapel hour on November 29 at West Virginia State college, Institute, W. Va. The girls' quartet rendered special music. President John Davis presided.

After the program, Miss Jackson met with chapter members of the college and those students interested in joining the Association. Phillip Waring was appointed to go with T. G. Nutter, president of the Charleston branch, to the Virginia Coal Fields in Pocahontas, Va., on December 1 to witness the court hearing in a case of extreme police brutality. The report was made to a crowded chapter meeting on Friday, December 3.

Under the leadership of Miss Lois Lambert, the chapter is in the midst of a campus-wide membership campaign. All of the campus organizations have been circularized and asked to take out organizational memberships. Then a tremendous drive is being made to enroll the student body and faculty in the membership of the Association.

The officers of the chapter this year are: Phillip Waring, president; John Cuyjet, vice-president; Davolia Davis, treasurer; William Robinson, corresponding secretary; Lois Lambert, membership chairman; Frank Clark, publicity director; Jethro Mann, program committee chairman; Harry Lee, Christmas Seal Chairman; and David Vareen, special projects chairman.

Gloster Current Heads Six Detroit Councils

During the week of Sunday, November 14, election of officers was held in six youth councils of Detroit, which comprise the Greater Detroit Youth Council. Of vast importance was the election of officers of the central executive youth council, the controlling body of N.A.A.C.P. youth activities in Detroit. Only those who are officers of the six subsidiary youth councils are eligible. Gloster B. Current, progressive and dynamic youth leader, was unanimously re-elected chairman; Miss Mabel Windrow, secretary, and Charles Harris, treasurer.

Plainfield Council After Clerk Jobs

The Plainfield, N. J., youth council is preparing to swing into a boycott of stores in the sections thickly populated with Negroes which do not employ Negro clerks. The initial step has been the sending of young women and men to various establishments to apply for jobs. In the meantime, organizations and churches are being informed of the facts which have been unearthed by the youth members, so that when concerted action is necessary, these organizations will be fully aroused.

A forum hour is a feature of their meeting each Sunday at the local Y.M.C.A. Spencer Logan is president of the council, Miss Cora Ford, vice-president; Miss Angella McPherson, secretary; Doren Jackson, treasurer; and Mrs. Sadie Judkins, adviser.

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JET BLACK HAIR COLORING

The New York, N. Y., branch Christmas seal committee, left to right: Miss Juanita E. Jackson, Miss Edna Scott, Mrs. Elise Watson, Dr. Alma Haskins, Mrs. Jeanette Pennabaker, Mrs. Katherine Williams, Mrs. Eva Gordon Jones, Mrs. Jennie Johnson, Mrs. Flossie Hilliard and Miss H. Maude Turner

Virginia Teachers in Revolt

By E. Frederic Morrow

THE saga of black people in Virginia is one of the most colorful in all American history. In fact, the so-called "Negro Problem" was born in Virginia. When the Dutch man o'war sailed up the James river in 1619 and thrust its dark cargo of slaves onto the bank, this act launched the destiny of black men in America.

Through three succeeding centuries of oppression, the offspring of this captured band has struggled to rise above the status of their forebears. Their rise has been sensational and epic, but not complete. But today, one turns again to Virginia to ascertain the reason for the clatter of economic shackles falling upon the banks of the River James. This time four thousand teachers of colored children shake off the chains of fear and placid submission to tradition, and unite against the entrenched system of economic slavery, based upon color.

More than one thousand teachers, representing a total of four thousand members of the Virginia State Teachers Association, in convention at Hampton Institute, November 24-26, unanimously endorsed action to be sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. for the equalization of teachers' salaries in Virginia, through the courts. These delegates voted an appropriation of $1,000 for immediate release and pledged their support and cooperation in raising an additional fund of $4,000 to defray the costs of litigation in proposed court suits.

The resolutions submitted to the Fiftieth Anniversary Convention by the executive committee follow:

> That the association cooperate with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in raising a defense fund of $5,000 to fight equalization of teachers' salaries in the courts of Virginia;
>
> That the association set aside $1,000 of its funds to defray such expenses;
>
> That five members of the association be appointed to cooperate with a like number from the N.A.A.C.P. to constitute a defense committee;
>
> That each teacher be asked to donate $1.00 towards the defense fund;
>
> That local teachers' organizations be requested to raise funds towards this objective.

I sat in Ogden Hall, an interested observer, completely astounded. Here were 1,000 Negro public servants registering an open, courageous, and intelligent protest against the rising tide of white oppression and discrimination. Here they were making history—not in the trivial rhetorical sense—but exposing to the world the traitorous impressions portrayed by "handkerchief heads" that southern Negroes lack courage, that they are satisfied with their lot, and are willing to be led and collared by the Black Joes whose heads are bending low.

As delegates struggled for the honor of seconding the motion and moving the immediate adoption of the resolutions, my emotions ran riot. I looked around and saw old and young John Browns who had come resolved to aim a blow at starvation wages in an attempt to wake a guilty education board. I saw knots of teachers who had given a life time of generous sacrifice to a noble cause, aware that "he who would be free, himself must strike the first blow." I thought of the Colonial patriot of Virginia, Patrick Henry. His dramatic peroration in the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1775, supporting the resolutions to arm the Virginia militia, for a moment lived again: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Revitalized leadership for colored people. Surely this is one of the most significant episodes in the long, tedious struggle for Negro rights in America.

Naturally there are doubting Thomases. There are those who question the efficacy of this type of bold protest. There are the reactionaries who question the motives of the N.A.A.C.P. There are the old-line leaders who will attempt to discourage action, for they know this justified rebellion will send their heads and influence to the guillotine. Even the alleged white liberals look askance at this new leadership which acts without their advice and traditional leadership. But these very handicaps should provoke substantial results.

When the fundamental rights of citizens are denied, and that denial justified by a bigoted majority and prejudiced public officials, it is apparent that the fight for Negro rights assumes the importance of a battle for the primary requisites of living. Thus the fight of the colored school teachers of Virginia for the equalization of salaries is only one phase of the larger fight against universal discrimination. There can be no turning back now. The fight ahead undoubtedly will be hard and uncompromising, but results will testify as to the wisdom of this modern method of petitioning for rights.

However, win, lose, or draw, history was written at Hampton, Virginia, November 26, 1937.

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M. Smith Photo

MISS AUGUSTA SAVAGE

Miss Savage, one of the leading sculptors of the race, was commissioned in December to do a Negro group for the New York World's Fair in 1939

March Wind

(*Continued from page* 18)

of noise, to crush the vial to atoms beneath his heavy heel. Then carefully he swept the crumbs of glass upon the dustpan, made certain that his mother still slept, and tossed the contents of the pan into the fiery maw of the dining room stove. This done, he settled himself in a chair beside his mother for a brief nap until it should be time to prepare for the funeral. Outside the wind was crying, crying with rage and disappointment. As the housemaid and the laundress struggled down the street the cold March wind seized them roughly, snarled in their ears in a last vain attempt to tell them, buffeted them, flu. hem hatefully aside.

"That wind!" exclaimed the laundress, testily.

"It sure has been some night," gasped the housemaid, as the wind strangled her yawn, "Just us two sittin' up with poor Bess. An' Eric with all that talk. But about him killin' them men—that sure was news to me. We sure have heard revelation on revelation this night."

"Lie on lie, you mean," contributed the laundress, made irritable by lack of sleep and the torment of the wind, "if Eric Finley had done all that killin' they'd have strung him up as sure as he's born to die. He wouldn't have nerve enough to kill anybody—a boaster's always a coward. Eric Finley's just a big windbag, full of noise an' bluster, just like this March wind."

And the cold March wind, insulted and affronted by such incredible stupidity, stuffed back the words into the laundress's throat, and screamed: "Fools! Fools!"

Factory Sky

By INGE HARDISON

The gray gauze of flung cloud
Spreads bat-like
On the neutral sky . . . .
Blasphemous smoke
Rising from a profane stack
Rides leisurely
The northward morning breeze,—
Murking the air . . . .

Morgan Inaugurates President Holmes

Dr. Dwight O. W. Holmes was inaugurated as the sixth president of Morgan college, Baltimore, Md., November 19. Judge Morris A. Soper, vice-chairman of the board of trustees, presided, and the invocation was delivered by the Reverend Dr. Charles W. Baldwin, chairman of the board. Addresses were given by Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president of Johns Hopkins university; Dr. H. C. Byrd, president of the University of Maryland; and Dr. John O. Spencer, president-emeritus of Morgan.

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—Policies in force: 1,643,125
—Ordinary Insurance: $80,106,234
—Industrial Insurance: $181,961,766.63.
—Health and Accident Insurance: $26,895,069.37
—Employment: 8,150 Negroes
—Policies issued and Revived in 1936: $174,112,773.00
—Increased business, 1936: $65,645,466
—Increase in policies, 1936: 251,047

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LETTERS from READERS

Reflections on Leadership

To the Editor of The Crisis:—I read with a great deal of interest, the article by George S. Schuyler, "Reflections on Negro Leadership," in the November Crisis. I want to say that it was certainly thought provoking. I am practically, 50 per cent in agreement with him, in this release, and I feel that this is quite high for an iconoclast like Mr. Schuyler. No one is immune from the burn of his vitriolic pen.

I agree with him that it is a calamity that so many of our people are "leaving the farm for the flat," and that so many of them have lost their land. But what else could lots of our people do? Living conditions in some of those sections were so unbearable that there was nothing else for them to do but "take up their beds and walk," or in some cases they had to run. Further, the trend is from the country, among whites as well as blacks. As to Congressman Arthur Mitchell, I fail to see any calamity in his reelection. In fact, I think it is a Godsend. Mr. Mitchell lacks the diplomacy of the average politician, so he has incurred the illwill of the Negro press. Editors and editorial writers seemed to have gone out of their way to say uncomplimentary things about him. But the Congressman says what he wants to say, whether folks agree with him or not, and that is just what Mr. Schuyler does. We need more men in public life who are not afraid to say what they think.

As to the preachers: God knows that many of them fit the groove set by Mr. Schuyler in his article. Out of such a large an array of clergymen, you could hardly expect all of them to be 100 per cent to the good. I have been associated with them all my life, and from my observation, the vast majority have a higher ambition than to "just take up fat collections." As a matter of fact, these men of the cloth do more with the nickels and dimes that are given in the collection than any set of business men I know. The amount of money raised by preachers has been grossly over estimated. I have been an official in some of the better class of churches, for many years, and I have never seen any one get a sprained back from carrying the collection. Each congregation has its liberal givers, but the vast majority give less than twenty-five cents a week in spite of the high pressure methods of many pastors. Suppose he does get a little vacation, he certainly deserves it. We should no more begrudge this two weeks for him than we would for the worker in the mill.

Perhaps there is some justification for the leaders not cooperating more with the labor movement. We all know that until recently we were treated so badly by the labor unions that there was very little interest manifested. With the coming of the CIO, a new day has broken. It is encouraging to see a new set of leaders taking the lead in labor affairs. This is probably better than to have the doctors, lawyers, preachers, teachers and business men dabbling in something that they know little about. The day has passed when one man should be expected to lead in everything. James Weldon Johnson was quite right when he intimated that we should have a variety of leaders. While our leaders have been somewhat conservative on the labor question, they are none the less interested. When they are sure of their ground they

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While I do not always agree with Mr. Schuyler, I like to read his writings. He is in a class by himself and this class is near the top.

DENNIS A. BETHEA, M.D.
Hammond, Ind.

Likes Pickens Article

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:—Nothing has made me happier in a long time than reading "Retort to Jingo Snobery" by William Pickens.

Congratulations to him for having written it, and congratulations to you for publishing the same.

GEORGE W. GOODMAN, Executive Secretary
Boston Urban League
Boston, Mass.

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The North Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan, Youth Councils were granted their charters by the National Board of Directors at their monthly meeting on December 13.

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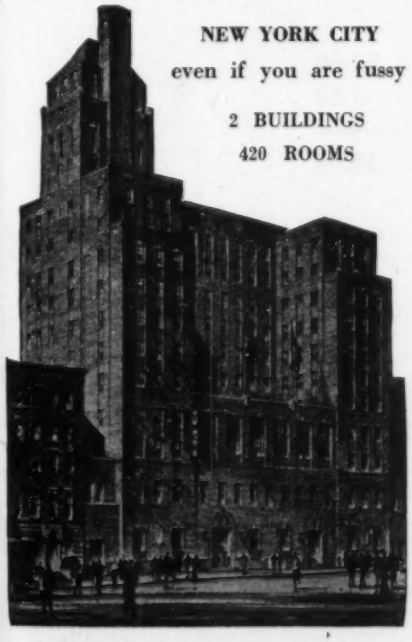

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